

## The Ten with Leprosy

### Communion and Prayer Ministry Service

Second service in this series of three

I hope that you have found it beneficial, even if you did not go up for prayer ministry

But what I do hope is that whatever prayer Jesus has answered, that you have become close to God

Many of us who are long time Christians may lack the intimacy with Christ, that we felt when we first committed ourselves to Jesus

Often Communion is a Spiritual act - a gift of God to us

Dr Kenneth McAll, in his book "Healing the family tree", does his prayer ministry together with communion

And it is at communion that his clients often find healing

A clear sign that the healing does not come from him, but from Jesus, through the body broken and the blood shed on the cross

So that's also why we do it together

### First Love

You have lost your first love, or the love you had at first

## you nad at first

^ Rev 2:4

### Human Love

It's a bit with that with human love, isn't?

When I first fell in love with Adriana, I was head over heels.

A spend days just day dreaming

But I don't do that anymore

Our love has changed, it has become deeper, but also not as passionate as it was at the beginning

### Love for Christ

So also develops our love for Christ

But sometimes there is more that has changed our love for him

Life gets in the way,

We get hurt

We do things wrong

And slowly it seems that Jesus is becoming distant

But instead it is us who have walked away

Like Adam and Eve in the Garden, we may be hiding ourselves from him

As we have become ashamed of who we are, when we are in his sight

And we have found ourselves distant from him

### Jesus calls to come closer

Instead Jesus calls us to come closer

He loves us - his love for us has not

changed

He accepts us, more he welcomes us,  
warts and all

He wants us to be closer to him

But he also understands that we need to  
keep our distance

Like the lepers

## The ten lepers

This a standalone story

We do not need to know anything of the  
background of Luke to understand this story

### Leprosy

What we may want to know a bit more about is  
the term leprosy

<sup>23</sup> “On the eighth day they must bring them for their  
cleansing to the priest at the entrance to the tent of  
meeting, before the Lord.

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meeting, before the Lord.

It is not the same as today's leprosy, which is  
not infectious, but very debilitation

Then it was a word that represented various  
different skin diseases, infectious or otherwise

People at that time did not know how illnesses  
spread

But what was more important for the Jewish  
people, that these people were unclean

The had to live outside the 'camp' or towns or  
cities

## Cities

<sup>2</sup> “Command the Israelites to send away from the camp anyone who has a defiling skin disease or a discharge of any kind, or who is ceremonially unclean because of a dead body. <sup>3</sup> Send away male and female alike; send them outside the camp so they will not defile their camp, where I dwell among them.”

<sup>^</sup> Num 5:2-3

The had to shout "unclean, unclean" whenever they approached anyone

<sup>45</sup> “Anyone with such a defiling disease must wear torn clothes, let their hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of their face and cry out, ‘Unclean! Unclean!’ <sup>46</sup> As long as they have the disease they remain unclean. They must live alone; they must live outside the camp.

<sup>^</sup> Lev 13:34-36

And when healed, they needed to be inspected by the Priest

<sup>23</sup> “On the eighth day they must bring them for their cleansing to the priest at the entrance to the tent of meeting, before the Lord.

<sup>^</sup> Lev 14:23

The were pretty much in self-isolation, except as people shared homes, they could not live in a home

They were also homeless

On the edge of the community

Could not earn a living

Could not talk to anyone

Except to people like them

## The story

Jesus was travelling to Jerusalem and entered

## a village

And here on the edge are the ten lepers

Keeping company together

Even if they were Jew or Samaritan did not matter for them

They just needed each other to survive

## At a distance: "Jesus, have pity on us"

### Jesus respects their isolation

He does not call them to himself

He does not touch them

He only sees them

## I kind of imaging that he had to raise his voice to them

"Go, show yourselves to the priests"

## And as they went, they were cleaned

They must have had faith, as when Jesus sent them, they were not heat healed of their diseases

But the trusted him, and went

If they came near the priest and synagogue and still had the disease, it would not be good for them

And while they were walking, they were made clean

Hurray

## Nine of them went on to the priest

They needed to go, as the would otherwise not be able to join normal society again

First this, and then we can do other things, like seeing family, or saying thank you to Jesus

They were Jews, they needed to do the 'test' first (Covid test)

## But the one returned

A Samaritan

He would not have been allowed to come near to a

Jewish priest

He may not have had any regulations to get 'tested' either

He may have thought, the only Priest that I know is the one who just healed me

He returned praising God in a loud voice

And threw himself at his feet

He was truly thankful to Jesus

Threw himself at his feet

Thanked him

And he came to Jesus

## For today

### What do you expect from today

An opportunity is given to lay things down at the communion table

To receive prayer ministry

To partake in the bread and the wine

But is there more?

### Jesus is calling

Jesus healed ten lepers

and they were cleansed, healed from their diseases

While still far away

One received full healing

The one who turned back to him

And praised him

Jesus said to him, "Your faith has made you well"

Not just clean

No well

In Greek the same words are used other wise translated as "Your faith has saved you"

Saved

He got all the healing he needed

Because he came to Jesus

So do we go to him?

Or like the other ten

We receive our healing, but thank you very much, we're not coming any closer to you Jesus

But if you do, you are not being made well

So come to the table

receive bread

receive wine

Come to Jesus

And be in his presence

So that He can also say to all of us: "Go, your faith has made you well" / "Go, your faith has saved you"

Coming to Jesus to Go with him