



“No Names of the Bible” Part 5 - The Gratitude of a No Name

Luke 17:11-19

1. Welcome everyone to CCC. What do you have to be thankful for today? My name is Tim Lueking and I thank God for my family, for this church, for sending Jesus Christ to die on the cross for my sin and yours, and I thank God for bringing you here today.
2. Sometimes we have some rough times in our lives when it seems like everything is crumbling down around us: our job, our marriage, our finances, our car & house, our health, and just sometimes the world around us in general. It is at these times (the times when we are at our lowest, the times when seemingly we have lost everything that is most important to us) that we may find it hard to utter thanksgiving and praise to God.
3. It may be the very last thing that you want to do, maybe you think that God has even cursed you, rejected you, or maybe even abandoned you. But I am here to declare to you today that God is right here waiting for you. He has not left you and He has not abandoned you. He has but one message for you to hear today and that: Run, Run to Him, do not hesitate, just Run to Jesus. Run away from the world and the flames of hell and Run to Jesus. As long you have breath, you have hope for He is waiting this very hour and this very day to deliver you. Run to Jesus today and find the salvation your long for.

Big Idea – The Extraordinary through the “Ordinary”

4. Today, I ask you once again: What do you have to be thankful for? In your bulletins, write this phrase and finish it: **I thank God for:** _____
5. We have so much to thank God for no matter what our circumstances in life. It is just sometimes we need to be reminded of what we have to be thankful for and why.
6. Today, we look at the final message in our series entitled “The No Names of the Bible.” Turn with me to **Luke 17:11-19** and let us look at the gratitude of a No Name.

The Gratitude of a No Name

1. As we look at this text together, we will divide it into three basic parts. The first part comes to us from verses 11-12. Let us read this again and study it together.

Part #1 – The Story of Hopelessness

- **Luke 17:11-12** – ¹¹Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance
2. We see in the opening lines of this that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem somewhere between Samaria and Galilee. Now we are not given the exact town as to where this great miracle occurs but if we connect this story to the healing of the Blind Man in Luke 18 we will at least be able to see a brief timeline in the life of Christ. We can safely assume that this is during the final months, maybe even weeks, of the life of Jesus Christ before He enters into Jerusalem and is crucified.
 3. We are also introduced to the main characters in this text and those characters are: Jesus Christ and the Ten Lepers. Now, even though we may not notice it at first, the last line of this text tells us a lot about these Lepers. Pay attention to these words in verse 12: **They stood at a distance!**

4. This one line speaks volumes. It tell us that these people were authentic lepers who were rejected, despised, and literally thrown out of society. They were mocked, made fun of, and their own family was forced by law to abandon them.
5. Understand that the Jewish thought of the idea was rather simple: If you had leprosy then you had the divine judgment of God upon you. God had cursed you. Therefore you were not allowed to be among the people of this city, you were not allowed to go and worship in the temple, and you were not allowed to be with your family any longer. You were literally cast out of society.
6. This mindset came from passages on how to deal with a leper in Leviticus 13-14. It is here where we see even the concept of divine judgment even though that is not always the case for leprosy.
7. I want you to picture with me though the heartache of these lepers literally left without any hope of ever being brought back into the society again, let alone ever seeing their family again. Due to the leprosy they were horribly disfigured, they were missing toes & fingers, feet, hands, and some were blind. They were considered they worse of the worse and utter outcasts and when they had heard Jesus was coming to town they gathered to meet Him and they stood at a distance ready to cry out to him for hope!
8. Jesus was truly their last hope and they knew it and here is where we see the story of what happens when hopelessness comes face-to-face with the deliverer!

Part #1 – The Story of Hopelessness

- Maybe this describes you today, if so then read on for your hope is coming.

Part #2 – The Outcasts Become the Uplifted

1. The second part of this story is found in verses 13-14.
 - **Luke 17:13-14** – ¹³and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" ¹⁴When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.
2. Remember what we have learned through this series. Every time men and women are in great need of a deliverer, a healer, and of hope then they cry out to Jesus not wanting this man to pass them by.
3. This is what happens in this text. If you could imagine ten lepers, by the way the largest group of people healed at one time by Jesus, crying out as loud as they can with a rasping voice for the leprosy has effected the larynx. They cry out these words: "**Jesus, Master, have pity on us.**"
4. This is an interesting title they give Jesus. They call him **Master**. Understand that the word they used here is the Greek word "**Epistates**" which means "one who has authority or power even miraculous power." It is only used by Luke and only by followers of Jesus.
5. These lepers cry out to Jesus "Have mercy on us!" Here we see that these lepers had a desperate faith and they knew in their time or hour of need, once again there was only one place to go and that was to Jesus. He was their only source of hope in this dark hour.
6. This is where we see the true heart of Jesus.
 - **Luke 19:10** – For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.
 - **Matthew 9:12** – On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.
7. Jesus has pity on them and his heart is moved with compassion for the hurting and afflicted and He tells them to go show yourselves to the priests. Why not you have been healed by your faith? Two reasons: (1) He is testing their faith. Will they follow His words and just obey Him? Will they rely on His commands and Words? Answer: Yes. (2)

The second reason why Jesus has them do this is for the testimony of the priests. Leviticus 14 points out that for a leper to be verified as clean then the leper must go before the priest and it can be an eight day ordeal or more. The priest will put the leper through a series of test and then will either confirm or deny the healing.

8. Think about this minor point: Who is the main enemies of Jesus during the last months or weeks of His life? The Pharisees, Sadducees, and the priests. Here the very people that despise this man will have to testify as to the divine miracle that has taking place. It will gain public attention and these men will be forced to acknowledge this miracle from God and who it came from. For at least eight days, the place will be a buzz and the lepers will be telling everyone near and far what God has done for them. Reminds me of:

Romans 14:11 – It is written: "As surely as I live," says the Lord, "every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God."

Part #2 – The Outcasts Become the Uplifted

Part #3 – The Authentic Gratitude of a No Name

1. Now we come to the last part of the story in verses 15-19. This is where we see what the lepers were really grateful for.
 - **Luke 17:15-19** – ¹⁵One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him--and he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" ¹⁹Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."
2. Oh, how this describes the American Church today. We have so many Christians that view Jesus as merely a means to get what they want out of this life. Few people authentically lift up thanksgiving to God today because they believe that what they have is owed to them or they arrogantly believe they deserve it.
3. Let me ask you an honest question today: Which one of the ten lepers would you be? Don't lie. Just ask yourself which you would be.
4. The ten lepers were healed on the way to see the priests is what verse 14 declares yet look at verses 15-16. When the realization hit the one leper that he was healed, the veil had been lifted from his eyes and heart and he realized that all the claims about Jesus were true. He really is the Son of God, the Messiah, the Deliverer. What does he do the moment he finds himself healed? He does three important things showing his true faith.
 - First, He Came Back and Praised God Loudly. – He has just been healed and he cannot contain his praise and thanksgiving. He does not care who hears. When was the last time you publicly praised God for healing or when God answered a prayer? What a testimony? We are to reserved in our faith many times? We are to silent when we should be vocal?
 - Second, He Humbly Worshiped Jesus. He literally threw himself down at the feet of Jesus and Worshiped Him. He fell on his face and worshiped Jesus.
 - Finally, He thanked Jesus. He was so overwhelmed with gratitude and humility that he could only utter thanksgiving to God.
5. I love the response of Jesus and burn this into your mind today. For it is the response He might just ask you some day.
 - ¹⁷Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?"
 - ¹⁸Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"
6. He asked this question with the expectation of a positive answer? This man a Samaritan, doubly rejected by society because he was also a leper; he understand what really mattered at this moment in time. Everyone else went to the temple and said, when I get

there and I have the confirmation then I will thank God, then I will praise God, then I will tell others about what He has done for me. The nine other lepers marched to the temple so filled with happiness and joy for they had gotten exactly what they wanted, they were healed.

7. Yet, this man was gripped with humility. He immediately went back to Jesus for this man did not just want a healing, he want salvation, he wanted deliverance, he wanted to make sure that the King of Kings would not forget him but save him.

Part #3 – The Authentic Gratitude of a No Name

8. Listen to these words in verse 19:

Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

9. Remember similar words are echoed in the story of the Blind Man in Luke 18 and the way we translated in that text is the same translation in this text. When we look at this phrase: Your faith "**has made you well.**" The literal word used is "**sozo**" which means "Your faith has saved you!" This man walked away with more than a physical healing, he was saved.
10. Let this describe you today. What do you have to be thankful for today?

Question to Consider

- How do you show the Lord gratitude for what He has given you and done for you? Explain.

Memory Verse

Luke 17:19 – Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has saved you!"

Series Challenge

- **Share the Joy** – This week find at one thing that you can thank the Lord for in your life and then share your joy with others as a testimony to His faithfulness.