

Luke 17:11-19: Dramatic Dialogue

¹¹ On the journey to Jerusalem, Jesus passed along the borders of Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As Jesus was entering a village, ten people with leprosy met him. Keeping their distance, ¹³ they raised their voices and said, “Jesus, Rabbi, have pity on us!”

¹⁴ When Jesus saw them, he responded, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” As they were going, they were healed.

¹⁵ One of them, realizing what had happened, came back praising God in a loud voice, ¹⁶ then fell down at the feet of Jesus and spoke his praises. The individual was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Weren’t all ten made whole? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Was there no one to return and give thanks except this foreigner?”

¹⁹ Then Jesus said to the Samaritan, “Stand up and go your way; your faith has saved you.”

Peter: Jesus, umm... can I ask you something?

Jesus: You can always ask me anything, Peter.

Peter: Have you heard what people have been saying about you and, uh... you know, uh... people who live over there (gesture in some direction).

Jesus: Just ask your question, Peter.

Peter: Well, uh... Samaritans!

Jesus: What have people been saying?

Peter: They say that you’ve been cavorting with Samaritans and other foreigners.

Jesus: Cavorting??

Peter: Well, you know, hanging out with them.

Jesus: And??

Peter: Umm... they say that Samaritans are unclean and that you’d do better to leave them alone. They didn’t like it when that Samaritan woman that you met at the well ended up becoming one of us.

Jesus: Did **they** not?

Peter: You know what I mean.

Jesus: I don’t really, Peter; what do you mean?

Peter: Ok then; well, this Samaritan who had leprosy. I mean he was a Samaritan **and** a leper.

Jesus: What of it?

Peter: You want me to spell it out, eh? Ok then. Well, wasn't he cursed by God. He was both a Samaritan and a leper.

Jesus: How long have you been with me, Peter.

Peter: Long enough (spoken quietly).

Jesus: Yes, long enough, Peter. God doesn't curse people like some people think. God loves us all: those with diseases, those who struggle, those who come from different places, those who are different than what people want to define as normal. God loves us all!

Peter: Ok. Ok. But...

Jesus: (breaking in) No buts, Peter. There was not "but" after "God loves us all."

Peter: (indignantly) Well, then, why didn't the other 9 Samaritans come back and say thanks?

Jesus: You know that they were all Samaritans, eh? Look, Peter, we are all made in God's image. This one person came back to say thanks, and that's great. Thanks to God! I'd like to believe that they all gave thanks in some way that was unique to each of them. We don't all have to do the same things.

Peter: You are so forgiving, Jesus.

Jesus: We all come from the places of our lives that are ours, and we all express gratitude however we might. It's not for me to say that there is one way only. And maybe when we learn to say thanks in our ways, there will be less judgement, less "us and them" and more gratitude and gracious lives.

Peter: Ok, ok, so maybe they all said thanks.

Jesus: We all could do with a little more thanks-**giving** in our lives. You know that song we sing at Passover? Dayeinu?

Peter: Yes: if our God had simply saved us, brought us out of Egypt.

Jesus: Yes, that's it. What does it mean?

Peter: Well, it means... umm...

Jesus: Yes?

Peter: (Rushed) It means that at each step of God's presence in the life of our people we could have said that was enough and been grateful in that moment; and so, we should be grateful for each moment that we have. Hmm, I think I could be a little more grateful, too.

Jesus: You think, Peter!! Come on, let's go.

Peter: Ok! Thanks... in keeping with the conversation.

Jesus: So cheeky, Peter!