Development of Central Truth

Jesus, on his way to Jerusalem, had to pass through a village. As he entered this village, he met ten lepers from afar. Since Jesus is just entered the village, it is most likely that he was on the outskirts of the village. It makes sense for him to meet lepers there. In Alfred Edersheim’s *Jesus the Messiah*, he says “It was….in strict accordance with Jewish law, that these lepers remained both outside the village and far away from (Jesus)…”[[1]](#footnote-1) Not only did the lepers have to stay outside the village, but they also had to keep away from people. They did not let this stop them. They stood from afar and cried for Jesus to have Mercy on them. When Jesus saw them, he told them to go show themselves to the priest. On their way to the priests, they became whole again. On seeing this only one came back to worship Jesus and thank him.

On reading this, one might think that this is just a regular miracle, but it is more than that. This miracle is only recorded in Luke’s Gospel. In Graham Scroggie’s *a Guide to the Gospels*, he tells us that Luke’s Gospel is the most comprehensive[[2]](#footnote-2). Luke’s Gosper is a more universal gospel which is probably why he chose to document this miracle or maybe it was because oh his training as a physician that he felt the need to document Christ healing of the lepers.

When the lepers cried for help, they did not ask for healing. Instead, they asked for mercy. In Fred Wight’s *Manners and Customs of Bible Lands*, he tells us that Jews saw sickness as punishment for sins[[3]](#footnote-3). That is why they asked for Mercy from the Son of God. They believed that if they were forgiven then their sickness would go away. Jesus, on hearing their cries, did not lay His hands on them or cast any demons out. He simply told them to go show themselves to the priests. Edershiem says “Any priest might declare clean or unclean…”[[4]](#footnote-4) This was the custom back then. A leper had to be declared clean by a priest before he could rejoin the rest of society. So, when Christ told the lepers to go and show themselves to the priests, they immediately went because they had faith in the healing power of Christ.

Their faith paid off in the end. On their way to the priests their leprosy healed. One of the ten lepers on noticing this immediately turned back to give thanks to Jesus. One key thing about this one leper was that he was a Samaritan. Scroggie explains to us that in those days there was an enmity between the Samaritans and Jews[[5]](#footnote-5). Despite this he was the only one to return to return and give thanks to God even though Samaritans served a different God. When Jesus told him that his faith had made him whole, he meant both physically and spiritually.

Application

1. Alfred. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Graham [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Fred [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Alfred [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Scroggie [↑](#footnote-ref-5)