

## ONE RETURNED

Luke 17: 11-19

Jesus is traveling to Jerusalem southward from Capernium, through Galilee, then Samaria. Samaria was populated by people intermarried with the Israelites still there and became a people despised by the Jews. They worshipped the God of Israel as well as other gods brought from the foreign lands.

As He entered into one of the villages, he is hailed by ten lepers. Their cry was "Jesus Master". They not only knew His name but they recognized who He was, Master. The lepers asked Him for mercy. Mercy is merit we don't deserve and is granted by the grace of someone in a position to do so. Jesus commanded them to begin the process of being restored to society by showing themselves to the priests. As they obeyed His word, they were cleansed. Only one returned to glorify God and give thanks.

The only one to return was noted to be a Samaritan and a stranger. This would lead us to believe the others were not. If the others were not Samaritans or strangers, then they would have to be Jews.

It is interesting to note how few it is and who it is that glorify and give thanks to God. One out of ten felt compelled to stop their pursuit and give tribute to the one who cleansed them. One out of ten glorified God in a manner that others would hear, in a loud voice. One out of ten fell on his face and worshipped Him at His feet. One out of ten gave thanks. Nine were busy getting themselves back into society while only one was worshipping at the feet of the Master who made them whole and set them free.

It was the stranger, the outcast, the mutt, not the thoroughbred that recognized the magnitude of the mercy that had just been bestowed upon them. It was the Samaritan that was overwhelmed by the cleansing and returned to put himself in a position of servitude, at His feet.

Our gratitude and servitude runs in relation to how God's grace and mercy is perceived in our lives.

Does God's mercy in our lives compel us to put a stop in our pursuit in order to glorify and worship Him? Are we so carried away with "our" mission that we neglect the source of mercy?

Our gratitude has a lot to do with not only how we were but who we were before God's mercy was granted to us. If we see ourselves as worthy of His mercy, we won't be grateful for it.

At last Jesus reminds the Samaritan where his healing and cleansing came from, Faith!

Let us be reminded that we had no hope or merit before we met Jesus. It is by Faith we have a new life; for that we must be very grateful.