

JOIN THE MINORITY

Luke 17:11-19

7/22/07

1. All had the same need, and the same opportunity to be cleansed.
 - a. All men had a common misery
 - i. Today, all have a commonality in sin. *Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*
 - ii. Leprosy is symbolic for sin in the Bible
 1. Numbers 12 Miriam spoke against Moses and God made her leprous.
 - b. God views all peoples equally. *John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
 - c. All must be cleansed the same way, no exceptions.
2. Their condition kept them at a distance.
 - a. Sin today will keep us at a distance from Christ.
 - b. It wasn't necessarily a physical distance, but a spiritual one
 - c. Christ draws nigh to the unsaved today, even through the affliction
 - d. All were afar off. *Ep 2:11-13*. We too were once afar off living in our sins.
3. They simply asked for mercy.
 - a. As always, Christ will exceed our expectations
 - b. Luke 18:13; *And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.*
4. He didn't "pre-qualify them".
 - a. Jesus didn't ask to see their driver's license. He didn't ask their nationality, or where they lived. For ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God.
 - b. He knew their need far before they asked
 - c. He purposely went to Samaria to heal the lepers. He wasn't surprised.
 - d. Today he purposely wants to be your Lord and Master. Christ isn't surprised by your life today, or past. You can't shock Him with what you've done. He knows. He simply wants you to come to Him.
 - e. Romans 10:13, For whosoever shall call upon the name of the lord shall be saved...
5. He gave them specific instructions. He said "Go."
 - a. This was a test of their obedience
 - b. Hearing alone would not have healed them. They had to act.
 - c. Faith without works is dead *James 2:17 - 20*
 - d. The miracle didn't occur until they did something.
 - e. God doesn't say, "well, think about it", or "if you think it's necessary". He just says go.
 - f. Today Christ is still testing our obedience
 - i. GO get saved. There's nothing to think about.
 - ii. GO get baptized. There's nothing to "pray about".
 - iii. GO join a good Christ led church. There's no one you need to ask for permission.
 - iv. GO get to work in the Lord's army.

Olde Tyme Baptist Church

- i. Too many churches today are made up of people who profess Christ, but don't possess Christ, or...
 - ii. They simply want some fire insurance and once they have it, they go on their way.
 - c. The Samaritan was not "ceremonially cleansed, but every wit made whole. Christ is talking about his 'complete' life."
 - i. He was obedient
 - ii. He recognized fully who the power came from
 - iii. He came back to praise Christ
 - iv. He stayed close no matter what others might have thought or said
 - v. He trusted Christ for everything.
 - vi. He lived the faith he held in his heart
 - d. Makes me wonder what happened to the other nine who were cleansed.
 - i. I believe their religion kept them away. They had their physical healing and didn't see the need for anything else.
 - ii. Their pride kept them away
 - iii. Not recognizing where the power truly came from
 - iv. Before people get saved, they have a clear understanding of their need. Often, after salvation they fail to give the glory to the only One who could cleanse their sin and offer eternal light. How sad.

11. We had over 300 here last Sunday. Along with that we had over 55 of "our own" people. Where are they today?

Christian today, ask yourself the question, "Am I a 10% Christian? Am I in the minority?" Or have I chosen to join the majority, the 90%? Have I truly given my life to Christ and recognize Him as the One who can supply all my needs? Have I made the decision to stay close to Him, praise Him, and worship Him?

You need to re-dedicate your life to Christ? Jesus says arise, go thy way.

You need to be baptized? We're having a baptizing tonight. Jesus says arise, go thy way.

You need to be a part of a great church? I know of one. Jesus says arise, go thy way

You need to begin scripturally giving? You'll never HAVE more until you start GIVING more. Jesus says arise, go thy way.

You need to take on some responsibility at The Olde Tyme Baptist Church? Jesus says arise, go thy way.

If you aren't saved today, you need to call on Christ just as those ten lepers did. Lord, have mercy upon me! I know I'm a sinner, lost and dying and I need your cleansing. Come into my heart today and be the master of my life. You today have spiritual leprosy and that condition is keeping you far from Christ. Why not accept His mercy today? Don't think about it. Don't try and get your life right first. It'll be the best decision you ever made.

Why not join the minority today?