The Ten Lepers
Luke 17:11-19

Introduction:
- A. Little boy given a cookie. Mother asks, "What are you supposed say?" Answer: "May I have two?"
- B. The story of the ten lepers begins with mercy and ends with ingratitude.
- C. The story of the ten lepers can be told in four parts — each with part teaching a valuable lesson:

Discussion:

I. The *Predicament* of the Ten.
- A. A dreaded disease - leprosy.
    1. Placed in isolation. (Lev. 13:46 cf. 2 Chr. 26:20-21).
    2. Had to be verified as clean by priests before re-entering society. (Lev. 14:1-9).
- B. A worse disease - sin.
    1. Universal. (Rom. 3:10,21)
    2. Separates us from God, His people and hope. (Eph. 2:1,12; Rev. 21:27).
    3. Have to be verified as clean by Great High Priest. (Rev. 1:5,6)

II. The *Plea* of the Ten.
- A. A plea for mercy (v. 13)
    1. Could not heal themselves.
    2. No man could heal them.
- B. Another plea for mercy. (Lk. 18:13).
- C. Still another plea for mercy. (Lk. 16:24)

III. The *Purification* of the Ten.
- A. Features of their purification from leprosy.
    1. It was divine - by the Son of God.
    2. It was by grace or mercy. (v. 13)
    3. It was by faith. (v. 19).
    4. It was conditional. (v. 14).
- B. Features of our purification from sin.
    1. It is divine (Acts 4:12)
    2. It is by grace or mercy. (Tit. 3:2-7)
    3. It is by faith. (John 8:24; Eph 2:8,9).
    4. It is conditional. (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 10:34,35).

IV. The *Postscript* of the Story.
- A. Only one of ten returned to glorify God and give thanks (vv. 15-18).
- B. How often is this scenario repeated? What ingratitude!
    1. Such may be lack of thoughtfulness.
    2. Such may be a sign of depravity. (cf. Rom. 1:21).
- C. How often do we fail to thank those who have favored us?
    1. The Lord?
    2. A brother or sister?
    3. A neighbor?
    4. A stranger?
- D. How often do we expect or demand more rather than being praising and thanking?
- E. How often do we "bite the hand that feeds us?" (cf. 2 Cor. 12:15).

Conclusion:
- A. Where are the nine?
- B. Are you with them?