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?