

Encounters: The Ten Lepers

Luke 17:11-19

3/3/23

Discussion Questions

Prepare: Discuss as a group what you want to for Maundy/Thursday and/or Good Friday.

Passage: Luke 17:11-19

"Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, 'Go, show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice.

¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ Jesus asked, 'Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?' ¹⁹ Then he said to him, 'Rise and go; your faith has made you well.'"

1. What are ways we can sabotage our observance of Holy Week? (Holy Week, also called "Passion Week" refers to the last week of Jesus' life – Palm Sunday to Easter.)
2. *"Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee."* (vs. 11) What do you think this statement means?
3. *"They stood at a distance"* (vs. 12) Share a time when you "stood at a distance."
4. Leprosy was a hideous disease. It robbed people of their identity, separated them from their loved ones, from human touch itself, and from hope. What modern diseases or situations does the same thing or similar things to people? How can we minister to them?
5. Jesus healed other lepers and then sent them to the priests to go through the purification process so they could re-enter the community. Why did Jesus do the opposite with these lepers? Why did he send them to the priests first, and then heal them on the way?
6. What is true compassion? Is it compassionate to give a cardboard sign holder money? What about the homeless, the person holding an empty gas can, the person asking you for a meal as you pass them on the street, is it compassionate to give them money or food or is there a better way to show compassion?
7. *"One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice."* (vs. 15) What are you grateful to God for?

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8. Why do we as human beings find it so hard to praise people and so easy to criticize them? In your life, have you been affirmed more or criticized more? How can we overcome this terrible human malady?
9. Have you risen to the level of gratitude where you are grateful, not to God or for your blessings, but grateful for God? How can we express this level of gratitude to God?
10. Why do we need to get to the third level of gratitude, where we are grateful for God?
11. Brainstorm ways we can bear witness to the reality of God in our lives. From the list you created, which one(s) fits your temperament, personality, and gifts the best?

Go to the CityServe website and look at all the service opportunities. Perhaps your small group would like to serve together at one of the service projects. Talk about it.
12. The Encounter series is over. What was your favorite encounter and why?

Your small group commitment is complete. Great job! End the night talking about the future. Do you want to continue to meet as a group or do you want to take a break and start a new group when the next preaching series begins?