

Time Audit Chronicles: Healing the Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11-19)

Prologue: The Power of Gratitude

The Presswood family sat together on the couch, reflecting on the day's reading. Ariel had just finished reading **Luke 17:11-19**, the story of **Jesus healing the ten lepers**, and she was deep in thought. The story was one of profound **healing** and **gratitude**, with Jesus performing a miraculous act of mercy, yet only one of the ten lepers returned to thank Him. Ariel sat quietly, pondering the deeper meaning of the story. Alice, still holding Mr. Fluffernutter, was pretending to act out the healing, with Mr. Fluffernutter dramatically "getting healed" and then being carried off in a parade of thankfulness.

"Daddy," Ariel asked thoughtfully, "Why did Jesus heal all ten lepers, but only one of them came back to thank Him? What does this story teach us about **gratitude**?"

Ryan smiled, recognizing Ariel's deep question. "That's an excellent question, Ariel. The story of the ten lepers teaches us that healing, mercy, and blessings come from God, but **gratitude** is something that we choose. Jesus healed all ten lepers, but only one—a **Samaritan**, a man who was often looked down upon by Jews—returned to give thanks. Jesus used this moment to show that gratitude is not just an automatic response—it's something we need to intentionally express. He also pointed out that the **foreigner**, the one who was an outsider, recognized the **gift** of healing and came back to honor God with his thanks, which can be a powerful reminder for us to be thankful for what God has done in our lives."

Ariel nodded, taking it all in. "So, Jesus is showing us that it's not enough just to receive blessings—we need to remember to **thank God** for them and recognize His mercy."

"Exactly," Ryan said. "Let's use the **Time Audit Machine** to go back and witness this powerful moment where Jesus heals the ten lepers and teaches us about **gratitude**."

The Journey Begins: Ten Lepers Cry for Mercy (Luke 17:11-13)

The Time Audit Machine hummed, and with a flash of light, the family found themselves walking along the **border** between **Samaria** and **Galilee**, in a region where Jews and Samaritans lived in close proximity. As they walked, they encountered **ten men** who were suffering from **leprosy**—a highly contagious skin disease that left people isolated and ostracized from society. These men, desperate for mercy, cried out in unison, "**Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!**" (Luke 17:13).

Ariel looked around, noting the sadness in the lepers' eyes. "These men must have felt so alone. Leprosy kept them from their families, their homes, and their communities."

"Yes," Ryan said. "Lepers were considered unclean in Jewish law, and they were forced to live outside of towns and villages, away from others. When they cried out for mercy, they were not only asking for physical healing but for restoration to society."

Ariel took in the weight of it. “So, they were in a desperate situation, both physically and socially. They must have had no hope left.”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “And when they called out to Jesus, they were placing all their hope in Him, trusting that He could heal them, and that He had the mercy to restore their lives.”

Jesus’ Response: Healing with a Word (*Luke 17:14*)

Jesus saw the ten lepers and, instead of immediately healing them, gave them a simple command: “**Go, shew yourselves unto the priests.**” (Luke 17:14). This command was a part of the Jewish law—when a leper was healed, he had to show himself to the priest to be declared clean and allowed to return to society. Jesus didn’t touch them or speak a word of healing directly; He simply told them to go, and as they obeyed, they were healed.

Ariel was amazed. “So, Jesus didn’t heal them right away, but He gave them a command. It wasn’t like in other stories where He touched them or said a prayer. He told them to go show themselves to the priests.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Jesus was testing their **faith**. When He told them to go to the priests, they had to **believe** that they were healed, even before they saw the change. This is an example of **obedience** and **trust**. They obeyed Jesus’ command, and as they went, they were healed.”

Ariel’s eyes sparkled. “So, their **faith** made the healing possible. They trusted Jesus and followed His command, and that’s when they were healed.”

“That’s right,” Ryan said. “Jesus’ healing often required a step of faith—an act of obedience before the miracle took place.”

One Returns to Give Thanks: Gratitude and Healing (*Luke 17:15-16*)

As the ten lepers made their way to the priests, something remarkable happened—one of them, a **Samaritan**, realized he was healed and immediately turned back to **thank Jesus**. He fell at Jesus’ feet, praising God with a loud voice. Jesus had healed him, and he recognized the source of his healing and mercy.

“And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.” (Luke 17:15-16)

Ariel was deeply moved. “Only one of the ten came back to thank Jesus? Why didn’t the others come back?”

Ryan sighed, reflecting on the question. “The other nine were likely so focused on getting to the priests and rejoining their lives that they forgot to pause and recognize the **gift** they had received. The one who returned was deeply aware of God’s mercy, and he understood that the **healing** was not just physical—it was a spiritual gift, one that deserved thanksgiving.”

Ariel looked at her father, understanding dawning in her eyes. “So, **gratitude** isn’t just about saying thank you—it’s about recognizing what we’ve received and taking the time to acknowledge it. Even the small things—like our health, our families, our lives—are gifts from God.”

“Yes,” Ryan said, smiling. “Gratitude opens our hearts to **God’s goodness**, and it brings us closer to Him. Jesus was pleased that this man returned, not just for the healing, but for recognizing the **source** of the healing—God’s mercy.”

Jesus’ Response: A Lesson in Gratitude (*Luke 17:17-19*)

Jesus, seeing the Samaritan at His feet, asked, “**Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.**” (Luke 17:17-18). Jesus then told the Samaritan, “**Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.**” (Luke 17:19).

Ariel was quiet for a moment. “Jesus knew that only one had come back. Why did He ask where the others were? Doesn’t He already know?”

Ryan nodded. “Jesus wasn’t asking because He didn’t know; He was making a point. He was highlighting the importance of **gratitude** and how **thanksgiving** honors God. Jesus wanted the Samaritan to know that his **faith**—his decision to return and give thanks—was what truly made him **whole**. He was not only healed physically but spiritually restored. Gratitude was a key part of that healing.”

Ariel’s eyes lit up. “So, Jesus was saying that gratitude makes us whole—not just healing us on the outside, but restoring us on the inside.”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “When we take time to thank God, we are reminded of all He has done for us, and it brings us into deeper **relationship** with Him. Gratitude isn’t just about being polite—it’s about **recognizing** God’s **goodness** and letting that recognition change our hearts.”

Reflection: The Heart of Gratitude

Back in the garage, the Time Audit Machine powered down, and the family sat in quiet reflection, taking in the lessons from the story of the ten lepers. Ariel turned to her father, her heart full of the profound meaning behind the story. Alice, still holding Mr. Fluffernutter, was giving her stuffed animals a big hug, as though expressing her thanks.

“Jesus shows us how important **gratitude** is,” Ariel said softly. “The one leper who came back was healed not just physically, but spiritually. He was made whole because he recognized God’s mercy and took the time to say thank you.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “This story reminds us that **gratitude** is the key to a deeper relationship with God. When we recognize God’s mercy and grace in our lives, we honor Him with our thanks. The other nine lepers may have been healed, but only the one who returned to thank Jesus experienced full restoration.”

Ariel smiled. “So, being grateful isn’t just something we do because it’s polite—it’s a way of **connecting** with God and