

Service for Week 6th -12th October

2025 By Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, we remember how you touched the lepers, restored sight to the blind, cured the sick and helped the lame to walk. How you brought hope to the broken hearted and peace of mind to those that were troubled.

We pray again for your healing for all in any kind of need. Restore them and make them whole, by your grace.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven.....

Amen

Bible Reading Luke 17:11-19

Ten Healed of Leprosy

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

When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give

praise to God except this foreigner?"

Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

Holy words, Holy wisdom,

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

In our reading we learn that Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem, and Jesus's teachings during this time have a special significance. Special because knowing he won't be with the disciples for very much longer he is leaving them and us, his words and actions as a guide and inspiration for our lives.

Luke tells us in his account of how Jesus meets on the road, ten men with leprosy. In those days various skin conditions were called 'leprosy' some of which were curable. The ten men had what we know as leprosy but unlike today there was no cure for it. If you suffered from any type of skin condition in those days it meant that you were considered ritually impure and you would be banished from normal society.

If the skin condition was a temporary one and cleared up you could go and show yourself to the priests and ask them to declare that you were now clean of the disease and infection and agree that you could rejoin your family and be part of normal society. This is what Jesus instructs the men to do and while on their way to the priests they found that Jesus had completely cured them. The priests declared them to be



cured and free from disease but only one of them who was a Samaritan came back to thank Jesus.

There are many accounts in the gospels of Jesus healing. The main reason why Jesus healed the sick was because of his deep love and compassion for those he met as he travelled around the country. The other aspect of his healing was to convince his disciples and followers that he really was the Christ, the one promised in their scriptures, the one sent from God and of God.

And the way to do this was to show that he had the power to go against and reverse the forces of nature, like the prophets in the Old Testament, by calming storms and walking on water. He also showed them, in a more miraculous way than the prophets, that he could bring people who had died such as Lazarus back to life. He could restore eyesight, cure those suffering from mental illness, cure the disabled and the sick, even those with incurable diseases. The gospel writers recorded these events to confirm what they had witnessed - that Jesus really was of God.

Today people sometimes ask me why God does not reverse their disability or cure their sickness. I believe that God does work to cure us today through the amazing dedication of our surgeons, doctors, nurses and health

workers. Also, through research and modern techniques such as the latest AI (Artificial Intelligence) computer technology. While some illnesses, conditions and disabilities are not curable in our lifetime here, if we put our faith and trust in God like those men did in Jesus, then God does bring us comfort and restores our mental health. One woman I spoke to recently who is suffering from an incurable condition told me that having faith in God helps her tremendously each day because she is not forever hoping for a cure, but is at peace in her mind.

But there is another important aspect of Luke's account of the ten lepers which I believe was another reason for him to record it. Only one man went back to Jesus to say thank you and that man was a Samaritan, from a different region and different culture. It reinforces the fact that God offers love and healing to everyone regardless of age, ethnicity, culture or background.

Jesus said to the one man who returned to thank him "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

Amen

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, I pray for our doctors, nurses, carers and for all who minister to body, mind and spirit. Grant them you're renewing and restoring touch.

Amen.

Prayers inspired by 'Prayerfully Yours' by Nick Fawcett.