

Underdogs

“The Leper – Thank You”

Luke 17

Small Group Plan

I have a close friend who travels to India to speak and teach in the many small churches scattered throughout the country.

He told of leaving one particular village. Several of the Christians who had gathered extended their hand to say goodbye. He shook a hand and then another and another, as he made his way around the circle. Out of the corner of his eye he saw someone beside and behind him. Instinctively he extended his hand. This person quickly withdrew. It was then that my friend noticed that this man had no hands. Both hands were gone.

The person was a leper.

He said that he understood for the first time what it meant in Mark 1 for Jesus to reach out in compassion and touch a leper. The risk. The kindness. The gratitude.

OPEN IT / INTRODUCE IT ...

- Poll the group to get a working definition of “Gratitude.”
- What other attitudes of the heart travel comfortably with a grateful heart?
- On the other hand, what attitudes are usually found in the ungrateful heart?

LOOK AT IT / STUDY IT ...

— ALL OF THEM NEEDED IT —

Luke 17:11-12

¹¹ 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 ...

- Why did these men stand “at a distance”?
- Imagine and describe what the whole topic of relationships would be like for them — (friendship, marriage, family, fellowship).
- Read Lev. 13:45-46. Try to put yourself in the place of a leper, and describe how a lifetime of isolation, rejection, and pain would feel?

— ALL OF THEM ASKED FOR IT —

Luke 17:13-14

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.

- How would you describe the faith of these men?
- Would you go so far as to call them “obedient?” Explain.
- Why did Jesus send the lepers to the priest rather than heal them on the spot?
- Imagine the experience of walking and realizing that even as your walk you are being healed / cleansed / freed from your life of leprosy. How would you feel?

— ONE OF THEM ACKNOWLEDGED IT —

Luke 17:15-19

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 Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

- Why did only one of the lepers come back to say “thanks”?
- Imagine you are one of the nine who did not return ... how would you rationalize your action?
- How would you describe the connection between faith and gratitude?
- How could this amazing feeling of relief and joy be forgotten so quickly (v. 18)?
- What was the major difference between the one and the nine?

USE IT / APPLY IT ...

- For what are you most grateful? (Have someone write these down for prayer).
- How has Jesus healed you spiritually, physically, or emotionally?
- What prevents us from praising God for his blessings?
- How can gratitude be given a more prominent place in our personal lives?
- Close by thanking God for His blessings and healings.