

Sermon Discussion Guide

Encounters with Jesus: 10 Lepers
Luke 17:11-19
March 14 & 15, 2020

Part 1: Pray

Every time we study God's word, we should ask God to use the Holy Spirit to prepare our hearts, teach us and mold us into who he created us to be. Ask God to reveal his truth to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passage(s) from the sermon. Keep a focus on key words, repeated phrases or major themes.

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. How much of a role does gratitude play in your life? In what ways have we (and broader culture) lost the virtue of gratitude?
2. Ray said that the great problem of ingratitude is that it blinds us to the mercy of God. Discuss what this means.

Mercy: The Need

1. One of the points of this story is to consider how we are like the lepers and ways that we can relate to them. Discuss with your group what it would have been like to have leprosy, including the agonizing departure from family and the permanent lifestyle of social distancing.

2. The greatest need of the lepers was mercy. Where in your life have you or do you need mercy? Why do you need this mercy? (Think of some of the examples from the sermon like abuse, grief, loneliness, pain, sorrow and suffering of various kinds.)
3. We are also called to show mercy to mercy. This mercy is often expressed through our compassion. Where in your life have you or do you need to show others mercy/compassion? Why is it so important to do so? Reflect on Ray's admonition that God intends to use *us* to show mercy.

Mercy: The Recipient

1. Perhaps the most scandalous part of the story is that it's the Samaritan who ends us responding to Jesus' kindness by showing him gratitude. What does it say about Jesus that he habitually loves the despised, the lowliest, the prostitute, the tax collector, etc.?
2. Ray explained how, in the interaction between Jesus and the Samaritan, Jesus is poking the religious people in the eye with an example of mercy. Why would this bother the religious folk so much? Who might you say are the "unlikely" in your life and/or in our society to receive mercy today?
3. Ray said that our problem is that we think we don't need mercy. How is this true of you? How does this thinking affect the way you treat others who might need mercy?

Mercy: The Response

1. The response of the one grateful leper should be our response as well. Is it your first response to thank Jesus each day for his mercy? Why is it important to do this?
2. Ray said that the church today is joyless in many ways because we lack gratitude. Would you say that you are a contented/thankful person or a complainer? What are the marks of a thankful person?
3. What keeps us from gratitude? Think about and discuss how a spirit of entitlement and the ruins of prosperity have affected us. Why should God's grace cause us to be so deeply thankful?

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow him?