



Touching the Untouchable

Primary 3-7

Bible Text:

Luke 17:11-19

Lesson Aim:

To teach children that our BELIEF in Jesus should be accompanied by sincere thankfulness.

Memory Verse:

"Giving thanks always...in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20)

Words to Learn:

- Miracle
- Touch
- Thanks

Always Close in Prayer

The Teacher's Bible Study

The life of a Christian is in no way a passive one. It is a life full of challenges, both physical and spiritual. It requires great resolve to obey God, to shun both the overt and covert evil influences of this world of sin.

Christianity demonstrates clear, identifiable actions which reveal the beliefs of a person trying to live as Jesus lived. Mere belief in a name or title in and by itself, as James points out, is valueless. James tells us, "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder"(James 2:19).

So we see that just BELIEVING isn't the whole picture. True faith begins by believing in Jesus' POWER to save, by being willing to change, and by being fervently thankful for this great gift of salvation.

Worshipping God and Jesus Christ is not a spectator sport. A Christian does more than sit in church and listen to the minister give a message. It is a Christian's job to incorporate these instructions into his mind, heart, and actions daily. Our gratitude will lead us to reverence God in a past, present, and future tense. Worship is about taking the time to think about Him and His creation. Your role as parent or teacher is to teach your children to do the same.

Worship includes prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. The first step to teaching our children how to know God is to teach them how to be grateful to their Creator for the gifts He has given.

What does it mean to give thanks to God? It means to tell God how grateful you are for what all that He has done and all that He has given you. You tell Him how happy you are for His kindness and help.

Have you ever done a good thing for someone and he didn't stop to thank you? How did you feel about that?

Our story is about ten lepers, nine of whom were Jews and one a Samaritan. The Bible tells us that Jews and Samaritans did not get along (John 4:9). History corroborates this.

This story also shows that national differences were forgotten in the face of common misery. It is a fact that disease levels the field of human-

ity. When facing a disease the empathy of a fellow-sufferer somehow lightens the burden. Rich and poor, small and great, can find a common ground in the battleground of illness. But that seemed to be the only common ground among the lepers in this story.

As a result of this miracle we are shown a sobering example for the Christian today. It's hard to comprehend, but, out of the ten lepers healed, only one returned to Jesus to thank Him. The others BELIEVED and were CLEANSED but were left unchanged in the core of their hearts. Nothing but their outward appearance changed in the nine.

God forbid that we would ever accept the healing blood of Christ and remain unchanged by it.

The one that returned to thank Jesus was the "stranger," the so-called "unclean" Samaritan. He, however, received a COMPLETE healing—physical and spiritual—from Jesus. He was not only restored to good health—returned to the land of the living—he became a follower of Jesus. His life was changed.

The road he would travel would never be the same. He became a true disciple of Jesus. The "untouchable" was touched by Jesus.

We too must comprehend this great salvation and be forever thankful for it. □

Simple as 1,2,3...



1. Additional Reading for Teacher Study

Leviticus 14:1-9, John 4:9; Roman 1:16-25;

Psalm 69:30,31; Psalm 100:1-5

2. Are You Listening?

After you read or tell the story you may ask the following questions:

1. *True or false:* The ten lepers were all Jews—**FALSE**
2. *True or false:* Jesus laid His hands upon the lepers—**FALSE**
3. *True or false:* All ten lepers believed they would be healed—**TRUE**
4. *True or false:* All ten thanked Jesus before they left—**FALSE**
5. *True or false:* The man who returned to thank Jesus was a Samaritan—**TRUE**
6. *True or false:* Jesus said that the man's faith had made him **COMPLETELY** well—**TRUE**
7. *True or false:* Faith needs the companion of thankfulness—**TRUE**
8. *True or false:* We should be thankful every day—**TRUE**

3. Word Definitions

These definitions were taken from *Webster's New World Dictionary*.

- **Miracle**—A supernatural occurrence given by God
- **Touch**—To come into contact with
- **Thanks**—To express by word or action appreciation for kindness or generosity shown toward you

SKY Story Time

Touching the Untouchable

Have you ever been sick? Did you have to stay in your room away from everyone until you were better? What if you never did get well and could never play with your friends or brothers and sisters again? You couldn't be with your family. You could only be with other people with the same sickness as you. Imagine if everyone would run away when you wanted to say hello.

It would be pretty sad, wouldn't it?

Our story is about ten men who were sick with a disease called leprosy. They were called *lepers*. In Jesus' time if you became ill with this disease you were considered "unclean," and people would not come near you. This meant you could not live in a normal way among your family and neighbors.

Leprosy is a horrible disease that can deform, cripple, and eventually kill you. This sickness is also infectious—which means it can be passed on to anyone who comes in contact with you. So it was very necessary to isolate lepers to keep others from becoming sick too.

One morning Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem. He was

walking along the border between Samaria and Galilee. Now normally a Jew would take a different route to avoid the country of the hated Samaritans, but Jesus did not participate in this hatred between people.

As He was about to enter into a village He noticed a group of lepers standing off to themselves watching Him approach. (Those with leprosy were to keep a certain distance from those who were well. This was the law.)

The lepers knew who He was. They had heard stories of His healing power, and His compassion for sinners.

As He came nearer all ten lepers lifted up their voices and cried out loudly, "JESUS! MASTER! Have MERCY on us!"

Jesus had stopped, and while looking quietly at them spoke in a voice they could hear. He said nothing more than, "Go, show yourselves to the priests" (as the law would demand)

When they heard this they were momentarily stunned! All ten realized that if Jesus said to go to a priest it meant they were healed—they could be purified and readmitted to their lives within their families. It was like being brought back from dead!

They turned and ran as fast as they could to go find a priest, and the Bible says that "as they went, they were cleansed."

Imagine that!

Scaly, hard, white skin became smooth and healthy; sores dried and disappeared. The numbness in their feet and hands was gone! Each man was experiencing a miracle! Their feet seemed to carry them faster and faster.

Go on Without Me...

However, one of the lepers began to falter in his running, and slow down. He broke away from his fellow runners and came to a halt. He appeared to have decided this was a race he would not participate in. He stopped in the road and turned to look back. He could see the figure of Jesus standing in the road. He had not traveled on.

Jesus was standing very still, watching. The man turned to see his companions beginning to disappear from view. The Samaritan turned again and began to run TOWARD Jesus. As he came running he raised his voice, his face, and his hands to God in praise. When he came to Jesus he threw himself at Jesus' feet, thanking Him in a choked voice. He did not know how to explain how thankful he was to Jesus. All he knew was that this righteous man had heard him, healed him, and

had the POWER to give him back his life and health.

This was also hard to comprehend since he was a Samaritan, and Samaritans were hated, and hated in turn the Jews! This wondrous thing that had occurred humbled his heart and he worshiped the Healer instead of his healing.

He finally lay calm and still at Jesus feet, waiting. He heard Jesus say to those around Him, "Were there not ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?... Only this one, the stranger, returned to praise God."

Jesus then spoke to His newest disciple, "Rise, and go; your faith has made you well."

Jesus says He is pleased when someone remembers to thank Him. Have you thanked your Savior today? Will you remember to thank Him always?

Always remember this: Faith can't live alone; it needs the companion of thankfulness. □

Crafty Idea

With the poster board laying flat, have student place each hand (that has been dipped into the finger paint) on the cardboard with thumbs touching in the middle. Or trace each hand with colored pens or crayons.

Within the hands have the student write—or write for them—"I Am in God's Hands," or their name, and talk about how thankful we should be to God.

Crafty 
Ideas

Thankful
Hands

I Am
In God's
Hands



Thank You!

Materials To Use:

- lightweight 6" x 7" poster board for each student
- washable finger paint (or trace outlines of hands)
- Colored markers or crayons