

Your Faith Has Saved You!

Luke 17:11-19

In this era, Samaritans were despised by the Jews (10:30–37). When Jesus entered a village near Samaria, ten men "suffering from a severe skin disease" stood at a distance and cried out loudly, pleading with the Lord for mercy. By this time, many already knew that the Lord was one who miraculously healed. The ten had been forced by the Law to live outside the camp (Num. 5:2–3); when others came near, they had to cry out "I am unclean" (Lev. 13:45–46).

Jesus, who was entreated for healing, directed them to go to the priests (Lev. 13–14). The ten were healed on the way – yet the only one who returned "praising God" was a Samaritan, regarded as no better than a foreigner. While it is wonderful that all were healed, the central theme here is faith. The Samaritan, deemed unworthy of God's salvation, was the only one who returned to praise the Son of God who had healed him. How grateful this man must have been for God's grace!

The other nine probably rejoiced in the miracle too. Presumed to be Jews – God's chosen people – they did not return; in other words, they forgot to give thanks and acknowledge God's grace. Only the Samaritan, deemed impure, received true praise of God and faith. This is

a great blessing. This reminds us of the healing of Naaman the Syrian (2 Kings 5:1–14).

While the salvation of Jesus may be accompanied by miracles, it is not limited to that. Above all is the grace and joy of faith. This Samaritan must have not only carried his skin disease, but also many inner struggles and burdens. He was also freed from these inner chains. Filled with faith in Jesus, he began to live a joyful life.