

But Where Are The Nine?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Luke 17:12-19, "And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole."

This is sad to see these men take the blessing of the Lord and then go on their way without a "Thank You" for Jesus. Yet, we should not be surprised for we see it every day in our time. So many are helped and blessed and then have no time for God. People remember God when their life is in danger. I have heard

those who said that when they were in combat, or in an accident, or sickness, or some other trial they called on God, making promises to serve him, but forgot when they were safe. Some even laughed when they told this story. **Ecclesiastes 5:4,-5** "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay." This may be old testament, but it is still the Word of God, and he still doesn't like those who lie to him.

Where does God fit into your life? Is he remembered on occasion or each day? I guarantee that while a person may be content to live without God that same person will think differently when they face death. When I was lost I know that I did. In Korea a plane that I was on missed the runway in the dark and foggy night and as it struggled to remain in the air, the first thing that I thought of was, "I'm not ready to die." Like many others, I didn't think about it until faced with my possible death. Don't ignore God and think that you have plenty of time; you might have, but then again, you might not.

When God has saved you and made you a part of

his church don't think that, that is it and there is nothing else to do. We are saved to serve, both God and man. Those who say that you can forsake God and never worship and obey; yet still be acceptable to him, are either outright lying, or at best, very wrong. **Galatians 6: 7-8,** "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." If this scripture is not clear enough how about **Hebrews 10: 25-27,** "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together; as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries."

Where are the nine? I don't know, but I know the one who was thankful and loved the Lord was in his presence thanking him and praising God. The ten men were all cleansed from the leprosy but nine of them enjoyed the healing without returning to thank Jesus. Remember that they all asked the Lord to heal them.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis's intening to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

IT IS A TEDIOUS JOURNEY OVER VAST WASTELANDS AND WILDERNESS AND THE CARAVAN MOVES SLOWLY...

A BRIDE FOR ISAAC
ELIEZER HAS TAKEN DEPARTURE OF REBEKAH'S FAMILY AND NOW MAKES THE LONG TRIP BACK TO ABRAHAM, CARRYING IN THE CARAVAN REBEKAH, ISAAC'S BRIDE-TO-BE, WITH HIM....

FOR REBEKAH, IT MUST SEEM EVEN SLOWER, FOR HER NEW LIFE WILL NOT BEGIN UNTIL THE JOURNEY IS ENDED....

...NIGHT AND DAY, THE JOURNEY CONTINUES, FOR ELIEZER INTENDS TO RETURN AS FAST AS POSSIBLE....

FINALLY, A DAY ARRIVES WHEN HE VIEWS HIS HOME, IN THE DISTANCE...

...AND NOW ISAAC, TAKING A STROLL TO MEDITATE IN THE QUIET OF THE EVENING, SEES, AT LAST, THE CARAVAN CARRYING HIS FUTURE BRIDE FROM AFAR!

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