

Theme: There is little that will bring greater blessing to us, nor more glory and honor to God than the humble, heart-felt, sincere praises and thanksgiving of His people. Our praise of Him, whether personal or corporate, spontaneous or thoughtfully prepared- is an act of worship that will forever draw us and bind us to our compassionate Lord and God.

Introduction: What is the place of exuberant praise in the believers life?

Background: Traveling the Galilee/Samaritan border
The “problem” with the Samaritans

I. The Lepers’ Plea

A. Outcasts

1. Living in “no man’s land”
 - Safe place for “lepers”
2. Bound together by adversity
 - A bond for survival!

B. Have mercy! (13)

1. Keeping their distance
 - Entering village? (Leviticus 13:45; Numbers 5:2)
 - Drawing near while keeping clear of people
2. Calling out to Jesus
 - Heard of Jesus *power*
 - Jesus is “approachable”
 - Cry for compassion
 - Making enough noise to be heard!

II. The Lord’s Power

A. He speaks!

1. “Go show yourselves”
 - Power of his Word!!
 - No rituals
2. They must act – believe?
 - Tells them to do what someone who *is clean* from a disease would do (Leviticus 14:1ff)

B. Full of compassion

1. In spite of opposition
2. For those who are rejected by others

C. Restorative

1. "As they went..."
 - Too much to gain to *not* go.

NOTE: When God's word calls us to go, to obey, to follow, to believe - it is best to do so.

2. All ten were healed
 - But Jesus desired more

D. Redemptive

1. One returns
 - He had to thank Jesus
 - He had to Praise God
 - Didn't yet know the two were one!
 - With a *Loud Voice* - "megaphone"
2. Real life comes in/through Jesus!! (19)
3. Your faith has made you well!
 - Literally - "Your faith has saved you"

III. The Lepers' Praise

A. A poor response. The nine?

1. Jesus asks "Were not 10 cleansed? Where are the nine?"
 - Not a rhetorical question
 - Jesus expected them to return in thanksgiving
2. The silence of the nine
 - No time to stop and give thanks?
 - No heart of thanksgiving (Romans 1:21)

NOTE: Thanklessness pervades the culture - both outside and inside the church.

B. The right response? The Samaritan's praise!!

1. A third question "Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"
2. Through Christ (1Corinthians 15:57; 2 Corinthians 9:15)

C. The right focus

- Who God *Is*
- What He has done
- What He is doing
- Through Christ our Lord (Colossians 3:17)

IV. The Life of Praise

- The work of heaven? Praise and thanksgiving! (Revelation 4)
- Many things will end
- *Praise will endure*