

WORLD LEPROSY DAY 2025 SERMON NOTES

Luke 17:11-19

New International Version

Jesus Heals Ten Men who were affected with Leprosy

¹¹ Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³ and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

¹⁴ When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

¹⁵ One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

¹⁷ Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

This story is taught in the context of Jesus talking about the Kingdom of God, and that it is faith which brings us in, and it will surprise us who has faith.

The reading is Luke 17:11-19

You would read the sermon to yourself a few times to feel comfortable with it. You may want to leave margins and space for you to write notes/comments which you may find helpful. The sermon notes are a guideline for you to use and adapt accordingly.

Introduction:

Jesus used to travel about the villages with his disciples. They would go from hamlet to town. And many people heard about HIM. HE was heading to Jerusalem and was about to go into a village. Before HE entered the village, ten men who were affected with leprosy started shouting at HIM. They had to shout because they weren’t allowed in the village. The law and custom discriminated against them because of their disease. So, they shouted at Jesus from a distance “Jesus, Master, have pity on us”. Were they calling out to be cured? Or did they just want to be noticed by Jesus? Just to be noticed by someone might have been all they wanted. Ever since the priest had told them they had leprosy they had had to leave their families. They had left their wives, their children, and their friends. They weren’t allowed to go into villages, or towns. They had to keep their distances from people. So maybe they just wanted Jesus to notice them.

Leprosy is one of the oldest diseases in the bible. We don’t know for sure if the ten men with leprosy in Luke 17 had leprosy, like we know it for today. But we do know they were left stigmatised and isolated the same way people affected by leprosy are today. It’s a disease of stigma, isolation, rejection, and fear. Because of that, it’s a disease of the heart, the soul as well as the body. Leprosy means your nerves end up being damaged, and you can end up with severe disabilities if left untreated and undetected.

At the start of the 1990s there were over 15 million people living with the effects of leprosy. Thanks to the implementation of Multi Drug Therapy – a combination of 3 antibiotics, better screening for people affected by leprosy, it is now down to 5 million people living with the effects of leprosy. People used to have to take dapsone for life, but now they take Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) for 1 year.

But every year there are still thousands of people who are diagnosed with leprosy. People just like 5-year-old Anju. Like the 10 men with leprosy, all she wanted was to be noticed. She was desperate to be helped and healed.

Hoping to be noticed: desperate for help!

Leprosy remains a grave danger to children like Anju. The last signs of this disabling disease are still destroying young lives in the most unlikely places. Like the tea estates of Bangladesh. Tea. So wholesome. Refreshing. How could a young child in a tea-picking community possibly have leprosy? Yet she does.

Anju developed strange patches and bumps on her skin, which worried her mother. In the humid tea fields, where many skin conditions are common, the Leprosy Mission runs mobile skin camps to help. Anju attended one, where doctors examined her and, with a close look, delivered the shocking diagnosis: "It's leprosy." The fear in those two words still lingers in her eyes, even when she smiles.

Like the 10 men with leprosy this decision was devastating. What would this mean for little Anju?

Working Hard

The 10 men with leprosy wouldn't have wanted to live at a distance from their family.

For poor little Anju, the diagnosis of leprosy would mean a life filled with fear, isolation, and stigma. In a community where leprosy is often misunderstood, she could face rejection from friends, neighbours, and even family. Without proper treatment, her condition could worsen, leading to deformities and further physical pain.

However, with early intervention and care from the Leprosy Mission, Anju would have a chance at healing, receiving the medical support she needs to manage the disease and regain her health, dignity, and a sense of hope for the future.

Like the 10 men with leprosy, were it not for somebody who cared enough and loved enough, little Anju would have ended up totally isolated from her community, unable to participate in life with others.

Being Healed

So, the ten men stood at a distance shouting at Jesus "Jesus, Master, have pity on us".

When Jesus saw them, he shouted back at them, "Go, show yourselves to the Priests." Because it was the priest who would determine if they were healed and could go back and join the community. And as the men went, they became healed!

One of them, when he was healed, could not contain himself! He came back, praising God, loudly, shouting louder even than he had before. He threw himself at Jesus' feet, thanking him, thanking him. And he was a Samaritan. He was the one least likely to come back!

Jesus asked him "Were not all of you healed? Where are the others? Has no one come back to praise God except you, a foreigner?" Then Jesus looked at him and said, "rise and go; your faith has made you well."

In the same way the ten men wanted to be healed so did little Anju. She didn't have anyone to call out to though. ***Instead, someone called out to her!***

Even though Anju was badly frightened by the words "It's leprosy", as she began her year-long course of leprosy-curing medication, she was deeply moved to be treated with such loving care.

Anju saw people selflessly helping others – including herself. Now this young girl has decided to dedicate her life to this kind of care. Anju wants to go to school – and become a doctor!

Through the transforming work of educating girls, Anju can aspire to so much more than picking our tea leaves.

If her leprosy had not been caught and cured, Anju would not even be able to earn the pittance that her parents do.

There is so much at stake, yet so much hope as we cleanse the places where leprosy still hangs on – like the tea fields. Leprosy may not be on everyone’s radar, but thanks to praying supporters like you, its impact is being greatly reduced.

Because of you, children like Anju will be greatly blessed by your prayer– praying

for children like her and for families struggling to protect them from leprosy. Please pray with us!

Let’s never give up on creating a world free from child leprosy – a world where no child or parent ever must hear, “It’s leprosy.” Anju, like any child, is too young to face this. You and I can make sure every child lives free from pain, fear, and disability. Together, we can make that future real.

Jesus

Jesus healed the ten men with leprosy. In the same way Jesus healed the ten men with leprosy, Jesus was able to help little Anju.

4000 YEARS OF LEPROSY...10 MORE TO GO! We’re getting close to reaching our goal, which I’m sure is your goal of a world where no one has to suffer like 5-year-old Anju from a curable disease. By 2035 we want to make sure that there is NO CHILD WITH LEPROSY. You can make that possible by praying or giving a love gift.

Anju experienced the love of Jesus through the skin camps run by the Leprosy Mission. She was able to experience this love – this love which Jesus shows for the men affected by leprosy in Luke. Like the ONE man in the story, little Anju and her mother have come back to say, “Thank You”.

We’re so close – just ten years to go! Yet the hardest part is always the last. Leprosy can still strike where it is forgotten – just last week in a tea pickers village – six new cases were discovered and one of them was little Anju. This should not happen. She is far too young for this. No child should ever have to face leprosy. Pray with us.

Closing Message

Showing Gods Love

Who in your life needs to be touched? Who in your neighbourhood is desperate and needs a loving kind word said to them, or even a kind deed performed for them? We all need to make attempts to love those who often go unloved. Sometimes we might need to ask Jesus to help us learn to love those whom we would rather not love, and to love those who maybe don’t get much love. That is what Jesus modelled for his disciples. If we are his disciples, we will do the same thing.

What is so wonderful, and humbling is that Jesus uses normal people like you and I, to continue HIS ministry of mending hands and feet, to help cure people affected by leprosy. With your help we can spread the truth about leprosy.

As we pray together with people around the world this World Leprosy Sunday, we are connected through Gods love with people affected by leprosy. Spreading the message that leprosy can be cured and that all people are loved in God’s sight.

Will you partner with us and others all around the world to ensure that in our lifetime we end leprosy? Jesus cured people with leprosy in HIS lifetime. HE is calling us to end leprosy in ours ...
4000 YEARS OF LEPROSY...10 MORE TO GO!

PRAY

Amen.

Please go to our website www.leprosymission.org.nz/wls