

Trust & Obey!

Scripture used: Luke 17:11-19 (NLT)

OVERVIEW

Big Idea:

This is the fourth message in the Starting Points series. We have pondered who Jesus is; our response to sin; and stepped back to be amazed by God's grace. Now we are looking at our response to God's offer of forgiveness and atonement. This story of the lepers being healed, but only one coming back to express true gratitude, helps us understand the nature of God's grace, and how we can express our gratitude by trusting and obeying Him.

KEY POINTS

- 1) **Point #1 We feel regret for past mistakes.** The story plays out in the context of remembrance, both good and bad. Luke exhorts us to "remember Jerusalem" (what happened there). In Jerusalem, Jesus had his last Passover meal, and became the Passover lamb. Jerusalem is also the site of the empty tomb, of a Jesus resurrected and alive. Pastor Hurmon used the example of the musical "Hamilton" to illustrate regret. Founding Father Alexander Hamilton saw his son killed in a duel after offering him bad advice on how to handle the situation. Regret over words or actions, over a broken promise, can leave us with a sense of things "unforgivable". Yet, Jesus' death on the cross removes our guilt by paying off the debt we alone cannot pay.
- 2) **Point #2 Jesus reaches out to us, asking only that we trust Him.** The scripture here is not just a healing story. The story purposely takes place in an unnamed village ("on the border of Galilee and Samaria") to make the point that no place is so insignificant for Jesus to ignore. The lepers shout out "Jesus, Master!", highlighting the universal human experience of crying out for help and mercy, no matter what differences separate us. The lepers were invisible until Jesus saw them. Jesus sends them to the priests who have the official responsibility of declaring and certifying them "healed and cleansed." "Show yourselves" is a command to be confirmed as healed. The lepers trusted and obeyed, and the miracle took place as they walked. The message here is one of following Jesus above all - before our perception of what's right and best for our lives. We turn our lives in the direction of Jesus - we are dead to sin, and cannot continue to live in it.
- 3) **Point #3 Gratitude toward Jesus is essential, and is built in community.** All ten lepers got healed, but only one came back to thank Jesus and show gratitude. Jesus expects trust and obedience not from desperation but instead from gratitude. Our hearts open not when facing punishment and discipline, but when acknowledging our gratitude for the sacrifice on the cross. What is apparently unforgivable can always be transformed and redeemed by Jerusalem. The Christian community - the Body of Christ - has a key role to play in reminding us to trust and obey.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** – Watch "It's Smarter to Travel in Groups" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIE8FtJnf-k>) and work through page 28 and 31 in the Starting Point booklet. How has God worked in your life through being in Life Group? What are ways the Life Group can continue to grow together to help everyone in the group to "trust and obey"?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** – Dive into studying Acts 2:42-47 on page 25. Your Life Group leader will walk you through the 4 steps (Observation, Questions, Implication, Application) and guided questions. What is one thing you learnt from studying this passage?
- 3) **DO** – Many people at NBCC grow in community not only through being in a Life Group, but also through serving. Reflect this week on the components of S.H.A.P.E., five ways that God has shaped you: Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, Experiences. Use page 31 in your Starting Point booklet to jot down your thoughts, and see if God is leading you to help fulfill the vision of NBCC through service.