



# As We Go

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Eternally Speaking Now

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The Lord recently brought me back to a well-known story in the Bible. **As He did**, some fresh insights came forth.

The Scriptures that grabbed my attention are in Luke 17, documenting Jesus healing ten lepers.

Now it happened **as He went** to Jerusalem  
that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.

Then **as He entered** a certain village,  
there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off.

And they lifted up their voices and said,  
“Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”

So when He saw them, He said to them,  
“Go, show yourselves to the priests.”  
And so it was **as they went**, they were cleansed.  
*Luke 17:11-14*

What jumped out at me **as I reread** these verses last week was the  
repetition of something happening **as another thing occurred**. Notice  
the phrases in bold above:

**As He went**...He passed through.  
**As He entered**...there met Him.  
**As they went**...they were cleansed.

Let's consider each of these.

### ***“As He went...”***

As the Lord goes about doing His will today, His presence is found in our  
midst. Do you realize that God deliberately, intentionally makes His  
presence personally known to you every day?

### ***“As He entered...”***

As He enters closer into your personal space, will you meet Him? Will you  
lift up your voice and cry out, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on me!”?

Before I go further, I'm compelled to acknowledge something.  
Did you notice how the lepers “stood afar off” from Jesus?  
Why did they do that? Maybe the answer is obvious;  
either way, let's consider it more deeply together.

Leprosy is a severe, contagious disease that leads to nerve damage,  
deformity, blindness, and paralysis. The Bible instructs that people  
suspected of leprosy were to present themselves to a priest for examination.  
Once a priest confirmed leprosy, the person would be declared **unclean**.

“Now the leper on whom the sore is,  
his clothes shall be torn and his head bare;  
and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, ‘**Unclean! Unclean!**’  
He shall be **unclean**.

All the days he has the sore he shall be **unclean**.  
He is **unclean**, and he shall dwell alone;  
his dwelling shall be outside camp.”

*Leviticus 13:45-46*

Wow. That’s a whole lot of **unclean**.

The Lord has much to say about leprosy (See Leviticus 13 & 14). Why was it so important for Him to address? Two reasons:

- a) God loves us, and He provides in Scripture a healthy process by which to handle the condition; and
- b) leprosy serves as a striking illustration of...*the destructive power of sin*.

Check out these parallels between the physical disease of leprosy and the spiritual disease of sin:

Like the illness of leprosy,  
sin is **repulsive and crippling, separating us** from the Lord.

Like those **banished** to a leper colony,  
without the blood of Jesus to wash us clean,  
humanity is **left to die in our sins**.

Like the lepers Jesus healed in Luke 17,  
many people **stand afar off** in their spiritual sickness,  
until Jesus enters into their personal space,  
imparting freedom from **the death that sin demands**.

Like the lepers, many of us inadvertently  
fall into a **stand afar off** approach with the Lord.  
We can be so vividly aware of our fallen human condition,  
so ashamed of how dreadfully true it is that we fall short of God’s glory,  
so conscientious of our own sick sin,  
that we **resist drawing close** in relationship with Him.

This mindset may present itself in the form of thoughts like:

- I’m not worthy of God’s presence.
- I don’t deserve His love.
- He doesn’t want to hear me again today.
- I can’t face Him. I haven’t yet done what He told me to do yesterday.

- I'm too guilty. My sin is too great.
- I can't face Him. He may forgive me, but I'll never forgive myself.
- I'm too self-conscious to face the reality that God is always with me.

*Please don't listen to these statements.* They're from the devil, who doesn't want you to draw near to the Lord, let alone be delivered from sin. Listen instead to this truth:

“Therefore, brethren,  
having **boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus**,  
by a new and living way which He consecrated for us,  
through the veil, that is, His flesh,  
and **having a High Priest over the house of God**,  
let us **draw near** with a true heart in full assurance of faith,  
having our **hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience**  
and our **bodies washed with pure water.**”

*Hebrews 10:20-22*

Please don't stand afar off.  
Jesus, our High Priest,  
has made Himself accessible to you.

***“As they went...”***

Will you lift up your voice and cry out with the lepers, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on me” **As you call to Him**, He responds saying, “Come, show yourself to Me, your High Priest.”

The Greek root word for “show” in Luke 17 means the following:

To exhibit, bring forth to view, display something belonging to self,  
demonstrate, set forth to be known and acknowledged

Will you show yourself to Jesus in this way?

**As you come to Him**, and **as you set forth yourself to be known by Him**, bringing forth your heart and mind for Him to view, *you will experience His cleansing power.*

“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one another,  
and **the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us** from all sin.”

*1 John 1:7*

That's it. Jesus has done it.  
**As you surrender** yourself to Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior,  
you are cleansed. *From all sin.*

## Challenge

Those of you familiar with the account of the ten lepers may be thinking at this point, "What about the rest of the story?" I agree. The story isn't finished, and it's too good to skip. Here are verses 15-19 in Luke 17.

And one of them, **when he saw** that he was healed, **returned**,  
and **with a loud voice glorified God**,  
and **fell down on his face at His feet**,  
**giving Him thanks**. And he was a Samaritan.

So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed?  
But where are the nine? Were there not any found who **returned**  
**to give glory to God** except this foreigner?"  
And He said to him, "Arise, go your way.  
**Your faith has made you well.**"

Do you catch something curious in these verses? Why would Jesus say to this man, "Your faith has made you well," when several sentences prior, verse 14 says, "And so it was **as they went** (to the priests), they were cleansed."

If all ten lepers were cleansed **as they went** to the priests, why does Jesus later say "your faith has made you well" to the one who returned to thank Him? Wasn't he already cleansed?

The answers to these questions are found in the meanings of the Greek root words for cleansed and well. They are two different words with two distinct definitions.

**Cleansed:** *Katharizo*, (kath-ar-id'-zo)

Purged, purified, made clean, from physical stains and dirt; cured.  
In a moral sense: free from sin/fault, purified from wickedness,  
free from guilt of sin, consecrated by cleansing or purifying,  
to dedicate, consecrate.

**Well:** *Sozo* (sode'-zo)

To save, deliver, protect, heal, preserve, do well, be made whole.

Do you see the difference? Does this impact you as much as it does me? It's monumental. As we come to Jesus, submit to Him, and show ourselves to Him, we are cleansed: *purified, cured, and set free from fault, guilt, and sin.*

Then, when we return to Him by faith, falling down on our faces at His feet, glorifying Him with a loud voice, and give Him thanks, we are made well: *saved, delivered, protected, healed, preserved, made whole.*

While I could begin an entirely separate study at this point and dive into the utter beauty and glory of these words and their context in the verses above, I'll refrain from doing so and instead will conclude with this:

There is no way we will ever fully grasp (on this side of heaven)  
the power of having a thankful heart.  
Somehow thanking the Lord takes us from  
being cleansed of sin to being made whole.  
Living a lifestyle of faith-filled gratitude to God mysteriously ushers in  
a greater depth of His protection, healing, and deliverance.

Every single person in the world can thank the Lord at any time and in any situation. It's something that can always be done. In fact, we are to *give God thanks constantly.*

"Therefore by Him let us **continually offer the sacrifice of praise** to  
God,  
that is, the fruit of our lips, **giving thanks to His name.**"  
*Hebrews 13:15*

The word continually in this verse comes from the Greek word diapantos, which means,

Of continued time;  
hence, of the time throughout (during) which anything is done.  
Through all time, constantly, always, continually.

What a timely reminder.  
May we never forget to thank the Lord,  
and may we do it always.  
Constantly.  
Throughout all time.  
**As we go.**

**Don't miss the incredible link below!**  
**Listen to this sermon, and experience victory "as you go."**

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One of my all-time favorite accounts in the Bible is about King Jehoshaphat, who was faced with an overwhelming situation. A multitude of an army was coming against his territory, and it was too big for him to handle.

**Are you facing your own personal multitude? Something too huge for you? Are you anxious about your life, your kids, the future, our nation, the outcome of the elections?**

Please listen to this sermon my husband recently shared. He addresses these concerns through the lens of 2 Chronicles 20. King Jehoshaphat experienced God's promises **as he went** out to face the enemy, and you can too. He experienced the thrill of victory **as he praised the Lord**. *You can too.*

**Listen to Pastor Rob's Message: As We Praise, We Have Victory!**

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