

CTW: Isaiah 42:1-4

Reading: Luke 17:11-19

AGD: I've never been a legalist but I've been a perfectionist.

- Legalist: one who believes obeying the Law can make a person right with God
- Perfectionist: one who tries to do things perfectly
- I'm not a legalist because I just don't have any confidence in any human effort to be that good. We are "set up with sin"
- But as a young man this text bothered me. Jesus told them to go show themselves to the priest. That's a command to be obeyed. The 9 did but this one didn't.
  - The legalist wouldn't have even asked for healing because they would have thought it was up to them
  - The perfectionist though would have technically followed the directions
  - But Jesus commends the one who came back

Jesus is wandering in no-man's-land. Between Samaria and Galilee

- Good place for lepers—not welcome
- Practical concerns—many forms are contagious
- But then there is the Law—Leviticus 13 and 14 give very detailed directions for skin diseases. The priest was the one to decide if a person was clean or unclean and the unclean lived outside the camp
- And that was the life of a leper even in Jesus' day—life outside the camp—with other lepers

These 10 met Jesus on His way into a village

- They cried from a distance
- And they cried, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"
- Jesus sees (distance) and says "Go"

"And it came to pass in the going away they were cleansed" [Faithfulbible.com]

- How many of us could stand to do a little more of the "in the going?"
- Call to Jesus. Be specific. Act
- God gives token tasks—an opportunity for faith

But this one turns back

- Like I said, I wouldn't have had the nerve—"Jesus said...I'm doing it!"
- But he can't help himself. He's gotta praise God.
- Have you just ever had to praise God?
  - When your circumstances changed inexplicably?
  - When a prayer got answered?
  - What about when you were going along and something divine grabbed you?
  - What about when you were so beat down that all you had was hope in God?
- If worship is recognizing God for Who God is then praise is expressing thanksgiving for Who God is

CLOSE

And Who is this God?

- He's the One out in no man's land...looking for lepers.
- He's the One who makes people clean with a word
- He's the One who is worthy of worship.

All the lepers got something from this encounter with God. Even at a distance they were healed but the Samaritan (the outsider of outsiders) got something more. He got to meet God face to face.

They all got God's hand but this one also got God's face.

We can and should have faith in what God can do. Heal. Save. Deliver. But there is an even deeper kind of faith. It's the faith that doesn't rest on what God can do but rests on WHO God is

God is good. And He's the only One Who is good.

God is loving. And He's the only One Who is loving

God is near. And He's the only One Who is always with us.