

'Master' as we seek to do his will because we know we can trust him with our lives. Knowing we can trust him more than we can trust ourselves. Knowing he has already died for us, he has already given us himself, that's everything we need.

Let's daily live this healed life at Jesus' feet to his glory, honour and praise, so that his kingdom comes and his will is done, for no other reason that we trust Jesus with our lives, and there is no one else we would want calling the shots.

Let us pray.
Jesus we thank and praise you for healing us from the leprosy of sin that kept us from sharing life with you. Free us from using you simply to get what we want. Daily full us with the Holy Spirit that out of love and trust in you we joyfully live with you as our 'Master'. Jesus, you are truly amazing, and there is no other I'd want to share life with. Grow my faithfulness to ever greater maturity, that everyone knows I'm yours, that everyone knows we're yours, because we live and love in your power and authority. Amen.

Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

10 October 2010
TEN LEPERS
Luke 17:11-19



In this encounter why does Jesus finish off with; "Rise and go; your faith has made you well." (Luke 17:19b)? The obvious answer is that Jesus is after faith. Jesus' goal is to create faith.

All ten lepers had come and called on Jesus to heal them. All ten were healed. So what's the difference that singles this one out?

The difference mentioned is that he came back. He came back to Jesus, thanking him, praising God, and in a loud voice. The other nine don't come back and throw themselves at Jesus' feet.

The other nine also referred to Jesus as; 'Master'. As lepers they see Jesus as a person of power, a leader, but

once healed, they are nowhere to be seen. Jesus is no longer their 'Master'. I'm sure they headed home to get on with their own life.

You couldn't say Jesus held a significant place in their lives after they were healed. I'm sure they were thankful. I'm sure they were pleased and treasured each new day they had with their family and friends. They had got their life back. And I'm sure at times they remembered this encounter and were glad they meet Jesus that day. But they would no longer call him their 'Master'. Jesus has no control over their lives. Jesus doesn't shape their lives. He was good for a moment.

Is this the difference? Only one continues to live with Jesus as his

'Master', as the one over his life who gives his life its shape and direction. This one came back, not to get anything off Jesus, but he falls at Jesus' feet, praising him, thanking him, dare we say worshipping him. He falls at his master's feet in thanks, giving his new life to his master.

I think this is the faith Jesus is after. They all acknowledged Jesus as 'Master', but only one lived it.

In reality the other nine simply used Jesus to get what they wanted, so that they could continue on with their own lives. They were now living as the masters of their own destiny. How soon they forgot.

When they were lepers they had no life, just an existence. This disease

shaped their life, mastered their life. Even to the point that as Jews they could live; eat, sleep and drink, with a Samaritan. No self-respecting Jew would be found dead in a Samaritan's house, let alone eat at the same table with him, and horror of horrors, sharing the same food. It just wouldn't happen. But as lepers all changed!

Once healed, they probably were glad to see the back of that Samaritan. Now they could get on with living. And their society had no place for a Samaritan, whether he was healthy or a leper.

So the faith Jesus is after isn't the belief that he can heal, but a life lived with him as 'Master'. A life lived with Jesus calling the shots, as we live at his feet, praising him through all we say and do. We like that one leper are able to fall at Jesus' feet, thanking

and praising him, giving him our new life, so that his will is done and that his kingdom comes.

After all we are all lepers in God's eyes, until Jesus heals us, rebirths us as the Father's loved children with whom he is well pleased.

Who's the Master?

Later on in this chapter Jesus says; "Whoever tries to keep their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life will preserve it." (Luke 17:33)

Only one of the ten lost their life in Jesus, and is now worshipping Jesus, praising him with a loud voice.

The other nine have long since died. Have long since been forgotten. I hope that

later on in their lives they heard the Good News of Jesus' Kingdom, and in gratitude gave their lives over to Jesus as their 'Master'. In their own power and authority their lives, whether sooner or later, would have come to an end.

And where would they find themselves? At Jesus' feet. That's where the whole world is heading.

When Jesus returns we all will fall at Jesus' feet acknowledging him as 'Master'. It is not an option.

If he's the master I've been competing with all my life, I lose.

If Jesus is the master I've been living under all my life, I'll shout for joy.

There is nothing more certain than that Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead.

How many people does that leave out? None!

And what will be the basis of Jesus judgement? How many holidays you took, or didn't take. How your kids turned out. Whether you made more money than you spent. That you had fun. What will be the basis of Jesus judgement?

Simply, did I live with him as 'Master', or did I go off and do my own thing. Did I go off and live my own life, my way, because I wanted to be the boss of my life.

The one leper came back and threw himself at Jesus' feet, praising God with a loud voice. This is an image of life, where it is best lived, and with who it is best lived.

That one leper was truly healed for even when he eventually died, Jesus was still his

'Master', and he was still living under Jesus' power and authority. Jesus, today, still enjoys listening to that wonderful strong voice loudly declaring his Father's praises, not for what he might get, but out of thanks and love for what has been so freely given.

Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead.

Jesus isn't interested in a relationship that is built on what we can get from him. Like; 'If I follow Jesus I won't have any problems'. That's not true, and Jesus wants to be more than my problem solver. That's not the rich, deep, loving relationship he's revealed his heart and soul to live. Jesus isn't interested in a relationship where I call the shots and he does what I want, even if it is meeting my

needs. Jesus just isn't interested in being used. Being used to get what I want, even if it might be meeting other people's needs. He's got better things to do with his life.

And Jesus will get on with his life, with or without us. For me I reckon it's far better with me, with us, enjoying his presence.

Celebrating the love he has for us. Loudly declaring our love for Jesus, in response to the love he has shown us. Never to get, but always because we have that most precious loving relationship based on Jesus' unwavering loyalty, which not even the horror and pain of the cross could change.

Let's all continue to live like that leper, daily throwing ourselves at Jesus' feet, thanking him, praising God for all he has done. Let's daily enjoy living with Jesus as our