

Title: I'm Going Back to Jesus: The Power of Returning to Your Source

Sermon Summary:

This powerful sermon explores the story of the ten lepers healed by Jesus, with particular emphasis on the one who returned to give thanks. The pastor challenges believers to intentionally return to Jesus as their source, rather than getting distracted by blessings, people, or circumstances. The message confronts modern church culture that builds community around trauma rather than holiness, emphasizing that bonds formed in brokenness don't always survive healing. The sermon calls for authentic worship, intentional obedience, and a return to foundational principles of faith—particularly the importance of reconciliation with others before offering praise to God. Throughout, the pastor emphasizes that testimony travels faster than theology, and that our obedience creates the runway for God's power to land in our lives.

Key Points:

- Jesus intentionally walks in the "in-between" spaces where rejected and broken people exist
- Suffering and crisis create common ground, but bonds formed in brokenness don't always survive healing
- The church must address conflict biblically—going directly to those we have issues with before offering praise to God
- Trauma bonding is not the same as holy community; we must be intentional about surrounding ourselves with people who challenge us to grow
- Faith often begins as a rumor; testimony travels faster than theology
- The ten lepers were sent to the priest before they were healed, demonstrating that obedience itself is an act of faith
- Only one of the ten returned to thank Jesus, and he was a foreigner—the outsider understood gratitude better than those who belonged
- Worship should be intentional, not just emotional; we must decide to praise God regardless of circumstances
- We cannot keep quiet about what God has done; loud praise is a public testimony of God's goodness
- Getting back to Jesus means returning to our source rather than seeking validation from people or circumstances

Scripture Reference:

- Luke 17:11-19 (The healing of the ten lepers)
- Leviticus (Referenced regarding priests confirming healing)
- John 3:16 (For God so loved the world)
- Psalm 118:24 (This is the day the Lord has made)
- Matthew 18 (Implied—biblical process for handling conflict with brothers and sisters)

Stories:

- The account of ten lepers meeting Jesus on the border between Samaria and Galilee, crying out for mercy, being sent to show themselves to the priests, being healed on the way, but only one (a Samaritan foreigner) returning to thank Jesus

- Personal testimony references about God's deliverance from sin, brokenness, and various life struggles
- Illustration of how sick people don't discriminate about their doctor's ethnicity when they're in the emergency room
- Example of how broke people hang with broke people, and out-of-shape people hang with out-of-shape people, emphasizing the need to be intentional about who we surround ourselves with
- Reference to David entering God's gates with thanksgiving and courts with praise (Psalm 100)
- Imagery of worship happening anywhere—in cars, at kitchen sinks, while paying bills—when God taps us on the shoulder