

Series: Still Worthy

Title: Turn around

Luke 17:11-19 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee.

12 As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance

13 and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

14 When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.

15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice.

16 He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

17 Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?"

18 Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?"

19 Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."

Luke writes yet another story in the life of Jesus.

This story is filled with the possibility of what can happen if you just believe.

The story is about the grace that Jesus shows on those that have been forgotten, those that have been outcasted, those that everyone keeps away from.

Take note of this; your worthiness is not the reason God gives you grace; grace reveals your worth and calls you to respond with gratitude, humility, and worship.

Imagine 10 men standing at a distance.

They can't come close.

They can't touch their families.

They can't participate normally in society.

They have been given a label that defines them: "UNCLEAN"

They don't approach Jesus because they feel worthy.

They approach because they are desperate.

And perhaps that is where many of us find ourselves.

We have spent years asking:

- "Am I good enough?"
- "Have I done enough?"
- Does God still want me?"
- "Am I worthy of another opportunity?"
- "Can God really use someone like me?"

But Luke 17 teaches us something profound:

1. Worthiness is not earned; it is received.

Luke tells us that 10 lepers saw Jesus and cried out:

"Jesus, Master, have pity on us. Another version says have MERCY on us.

I want you to notice their posture.

The scriptures do not tell us anything about these men.

We don't know what their profession was before they got leprosy.

It does not tell us if they had families; or if they knew each other; the writer does not tell us anything about these men except that they were lepers.

Something to take note of:

Grace doesn't begin with your worthiness. Grace begins with God's character.

These 10 men didn't receive healing because they had proven themselves worthy.

They received mercy because Jesus was merciful.

Think about it: a child doesn't earn the right to be loved by becoming a perfect child.

A father loves his child because he is his child.

Likewise, our relationship with God doesn't begin:

"I am worthy, therefore God loves me."

It begins: "God loves me, therefore He invites me into relationship with Him."

Here is a question to think about:

What if you have been spending your entire life trying to earn what God intended you to receive?

Some people are exhausted because they're trying to prove their worth.

Trying to prove themselves to their parents.

Their spouse...their employer...their church...their friends...Even God.

But Jesus says: Come to me.

Not become worthy then come.

2. Worthiness is revealed by what you do after you receive grace.

Here's where the story gets uncomfortable.

Jesus heals all 10. But only one returns.

Luke 17:15 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice.

The miracle wasn't the finale test.

The response was.

10 received healing. Only one recognized the Healer.

This is the danger of blessing:

We can become so focused on what God gives us that we forget God Himself.

There is a Hebrew word "todah" it is commonly associated with thanksgiving or thanks.

But "todah" carries a deeper biblical idea than simply saying: "Thank you"

It involves acknowledging what God has done and openly responding to Him.

In other words: Thanksgiving isn't merely an emotion. It is a declaration!

This particular Samaritan didn't simply feel grateful.

He turned around.

That's important.

Gratitude..... changed his direction.

He was walking away

From Jesus with 9 others.

Then something happened.

He was healing.

And he changed direction.

Grace caused him to turn around.

Here's the question: Has God's blessing changed your direction – or only improve your situation?

Because sometimes we pray: "God, change my circumstances."

And God does, but then we continue walking in the same direction.

Same habits...same attitude...same pride...same priorities...same relationships...same selfishness.

The Samaritan understood something the other 9 missed:

A miracle isn't merely something you receive. It is something that should redirect you towards the One who gave it.

3. True worthiness is found at the feet of Jesus

Luke 17:15-16 One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶ He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

There is something beautiful here.

He comes back....he praises God..and then he falls at Jesus' feet.

The man who moments ago had to stand far away from Jesus is now lying at His feet.

That is transformation.

From distance to intimacy.

From exclusion to relationship.

From desperation to devotion.

From asking "Can Jesus can you help me? To realizing; "Jesus is worthy of my life."

This man didn't just merely recognize that Jesus had power.

He recognized that Jesus was worthy of honor.

There is a difference.

You can appreciate what someone does without truly honoring who they are.

And that's what makes this story so challenging.

The 9 wanted a gift...the one wanted the giver.

The 9 wanted their bodies restored...the one wanted to get back to Jesus.

The 9 received a miracle.

The one discovered something deeper.

Jesus says: Your faith has made you well. (the original version says, your faith has made you whole.)

The Greek word here expresses the idea of being saved, made whole, restored.

The Samaritan didn't merely receive physical restoration.

He entered into a deeper relationship with the One who restored him.

The's passage gives us 3 movements

1. Received – “I don't have to earn grace”

You are not saved because you are impressive.

You come because Jesus is merciful.

Stop trying to earn God's love, just receive it.

2. Return – “I will not forget the source of my blessing.”

Don't allow the blessing to become more important than the Blessor.

Don't let:

- The promotion replace God,
- The marriage replace God,
- The money replace God,
- The ministry replace God,
- The success replace God.

Return.

3. Respond – “My life belongs at His feet.”

The Samaritan didn't just say thank you.

He surrendered his posture.

He fell down.

His body preached what is mouth confessed;

“Jesus you are worthy.”

Then Jesus asked.....So, what happened to the other 9?

Not because he needed information. He knew where they went.

He's asking because we need to know where we are going.

Are we walking away from Jesus because we got what we wanted?

Or are we walking toward Jesus because we discovered that He is worth more than what He can give us?

The Samaritan came to Jesus as an outcast..he left as a worshiper.

He came carrying a disease..he left carrying a testimony.

He came believing Jesus could change his condition...he left KNOWING Jesus had changed his life.

Perhaps today you are one of the 9:

God blessed you..God answered your prayer...God opened a door...Go restored things.

But somewhere along the way, you kept walking.

You got busy..you got successful, you got comfortable..you got distracted...

TURN AROUND!!!!!! COME BACK!!!

He is worthy of our gratitude

He is worthy of our obedience

He is worthy of our families

He is worthy of our resources

Dreams....future...worship.

Because the question is not simply "Am I worthy?"

The greater question is: IS HE worthy? And the answer is YES!!!

And because He is worthy, I can receive grace.

Because He is worthy....I can turn around.

Because He is worthy...I can fall at His feet.

Because He is worthy....I can give him my whole life.