

## SERMON LISTENING WORKSHEET

**Date:** June 22, 2025

**Passage:** Luke 17:11-19

**Title:** One out of Ten: What Real Faith Looks Like

**Main Idea:** Genuine faith is distinct from mere religious activity or a self-focused belief; it is characterised by humility, a recognition of desperate need for God's grace, and a deep, grateful worshipping focus on Jesus.

**Purpose:** To help listeners understand what genuine, saving faith looks like, so they can assess their own relationship with God and cultivate a faith that truly glorifies Jesus.

### Listening Outline:

- I. Introduction:
  - A. The Story's Setting and Central Question: Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, where He is going to die to provide forgiveness of sins, provides the backdrop for this story, which powerfully answers the question: "What does genuine faith look like?"
  - B. The Contrast: Salvation vs. Physical Healing: All ten lepers received physical healing, but Jesus states that only the Samaritan's faith "saved" him, highlighting a unique and distinct kind of faith compared to the others. This difference is crucial because without genuine faith, there is no salvation.
- II. Genuine Faith Requires Humility.
  - A. Knowing Who God Is and Who We Are: Genuine faith begins with understanding that God is God and "does not owe me anything," as illustrated by the master-servant parable where the servant, even if perfectly obedient, has only done his duty and isn't owed thanks.
  - B. Rejecting Entitlement: Unlike the Pharisees who believed God owed them something due to their perceived obedience and Jewish identity, true faith recognises we are "unworthy servants" who are not necessary to God; our expectations of deserving good from God are a fundamental problem that hinders appreciating His grace. Humbling experiences in life can be blessings if they lead to this realisation.
- III. Genuine Faith Recognizes its Desperate Need for a Saviour.
  - A. Recognising Our Spiritual Leprosy: If our natural relationship with God were accurately pictured, we are more like the lepers – "absolute outcasts" and "unclean," a vivid illustration of sin's profound consequences.
  - B. The Plea for Mercy: The lepers' desperate cry, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us," demonstrates their recognition of Jesus' authority and their own desperate need for His intervention, a crucial starting point that the self-sufficient Pharisees lacked. Their immediate obedience to Jesus' seemingly strange command to go to the priests further demonstrated a foundational belief in His power.
- IV. Genuine Faith Wants Jesus, Not Just What He Can Do For Us.
  - A. The Samaritan's Distinct Response: Only the Samaritan, a 'foreigner' whom Jewish people despised, "turned back, praising God with a loud voice, and he fell on his

face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks". This spontaneous worship and profound gratitude is a key hallmark of genuine faith .

- B. Worship as the Goal of Salvation: False faith seeks what Jesus can do for them and forgets Him once its desires are met, reflecting an 'I deserve' mentality. True faith, however, desires to "be with Jesus" and focuses on Him, understanding that God's ultimate goal in salvation through Jesus is to solve our broken relationship with Him and lead us into worship. The Samaritan's response, though seemingly obvious, was remarkable because the other nine did not share it .

V. Conclusion:

- A. A Call to Pay Attention: We are warned that "temptations to sin are sure to come" and many may "look religious" but "don't get grace" . This necessitates a careful examination of our own relationship with God.

**Discussion Questions:**

- What central question does the story of the ten lepers in Luke 17:11-19 aim to answer, according to the source?
- How does the source differentiate between "physical cleansing" and "salvation" in the context of the lepers' healing?
- Why is the detail of Jesus being "on the way to Jerusalem" significant to understanding the broader message of Luke's Gospel, particularly in chapters 9-19?
- According to the text, what is the initial, foundational step of genuine faith, highlighted by the story of the master and servant?
- How is leprosy presented in the Bible, and specifically in this sermon, as a metaphor beyond a mere physical ailment?
- What does the lepers' cry of "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us" reveal about their initial understanding of Jesus, compared to the Pharisees?
- Why was Jesus' command for the lepers to "Go and show yourselves to the priests" initially puzzling or illogical to them?
- What key action of the Samaritan leper, not performed by the other nine, identifies his faith as "saving faith"?
- The text suggests that false faith is often "addicted to religion that focuses the attention on us." Explain what this means in the context of the sermon.
- What is the ultimate outcome or goal that God's actions through Jesus are supposed to lead to, according to the source?
- Do you view God as your equal or think He owes you something? Do you see yourself as desperately needing a Saviour? Is worshipping and enjoying God through Jesus a priority more important than anything else? .
- How does the parable of the master and servant (Luke 17:7-10) challenge any personal sense of entitlement or deservingness in our relationship with God?
- The lepers are described as 'absolute outcasts' and a 'vivid picture of what sin has done to people,' highlighting humanity's desperate 'need of a Saviour' . In what ways can understanding our own spiritual condition as profoundly broken or 'unclean' parallel the lepers' desperate plea, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us,' and how does this recognition lead to genuine faith?
- 'False faith' is focused on 'what Jesus can do for us' and forgets Jesus once it gets what it wants, while 'true faith' 'wants to be with Jesus' and focuses on Him. How can we assess if our own faith is primarily centred on what God can do for us (an 'I deserve mentality') or truly worshipping and enjoying God for who He is?
- Luke intentionally sets this story on Jesus' journey 'on the way to Jerusalem' where He is 'going to die' to 'provide forgiveness of sins'. How does understanding Jesus' ultimate mission to become 'the ultimate leper' in our place, so that people like the Samaritan can

'boldly come to God through Him,' deepen your appreciation for the profound nature of salvation?

- The Samaritan's immediate return to Jesus, 'praising God with a loud voice, and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet, giving him thanks,' is highlighted as a mark of saving faith . Given that Jesus 'doesn't need you' and 'doesn't owe you anything' , what does the Samaritan's spontaneous act of worship and Jesus' commendation tell us about the nature of God's grace and how He values a truly thankful response?
- Considering the warning that 'temptations to sin are sure to come' and that many may 'look religious' but 'don't get grace' , what practical steps can we take individually and as a group to cultivate 'genuine faith' that is not a 'counterfeit' and 'look[s] like' what Jesus affirmed in the Samaritan?

## **IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION**

The pastors have a standing open office hour during lunch-time on Thursdays from 12-1. You can join via the Google Meet code in the bulletin.