

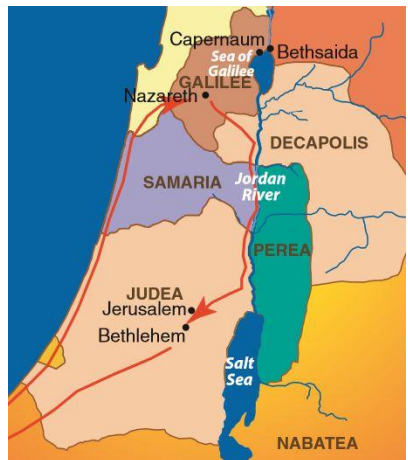
# Are You Spiritually Well?

Sunday, 10/13 at 8:00 & 10:45 + Monday, 10/14 at 7 PM  
18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity – 2019

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Our congregation has a list of people who are not well *physically*; their ailments are ♦seen or ♦felt or ♦known—*through test results*; they desire our prayers, *and we are glad to pray for them!* However, what about those who are not well *spiritually*? Their ailments are ♦not seen and, *sometimes*, they are ♦not felt or known – *apart from God’s work by the Spirit through the Word.*

Today, as we consider a leper who was healed physically and spiritually, *so let us reflect on our own spiritual wellness...*

1. **The Setting:** <sup>11</sup> **On the way to Jerusalem [Jesus] was passing along between [the regions of] Samaria and Galilee.** // As I noted in an earlier sermon (as recorded in [Luke 9:51](#)), Jesus “set his face to go to Jerusalem” (ESV). Now He is on that same journey,



*probably on the border between Galilee and Samaria.*

A thought: Back then people thought all Jews were okay with God, *but all Samaritans were not*; today, people think all churchgoers are okay with God, *but all non-churchgoers are not.* Neither statement is true.

2. **The Asking:** <sup>12</sup> **And as [Jesus] entered a [certain] village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance <sup>13</sup> and lifted up their voices, saying, “Jesus, Master [one who has authority], have mercy [pity, compassion] on us.”**
- Stood at a distance:** Lepers were required to make their situation known to others who were nearby: “Anyone with such a defiling disease must wear torn clothes, let their hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of their face and cry out, ‘Unclean! Unclean!’” (Lev. 13:45 NIV).
  - Master:** Those men must have heard about Jesus, *and His many healing miracles*; when they said, “**Master,**” they expressed their belief in *Jesus having the authority to heal them*.
  - Have mercy:** They felt miserable, *and lived a miserable and secluded life*. They didn’t say they deserved to be healed, *but they asked Jesus to use His authority over their disease to make them physically well*.
3. **The Obeying:** <sup>14</sup> **When [Jesus] saw them [obviously seeing their leprosy] he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went they were cleansed [healed of their disease].**
- The priests:** You can read the *many details* in **Leviticus 14:1-32**; it basically “**states that a healed leper is to show himself to the priests and offer sacrifice**” (CC, Just, 653). In other words,
    - ▶ the recovery would be verified by a priest and
    - ▶ thanks would be shown to God.

- b. As they went: What Jesus said to them was unusual, “Go and show...” He could have said: *Be healed!* Nevertheless, they did believe in Jesus’ authority to heal, so *they went AND “as they went they were cleansed.”*

4. **The Returning**: <sup>15</sup> Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; <sup>16</sup> and he fell on his face at Jesus’ feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan.

- a. Turned back, praising God: The other physically healed men were probably on their way to Jerusalem – *to be verified physically well and restored to their normal earthly lives*. However, one man – *and he, a Samaritan* – seeing what Jesus had done, had also been made spiritually well – *by grace through faith in Jesus!*
- b. One received two blessings: “In the heart of the one [who returned]... something was born that was not born in the hearts of the others... they grasped only at the healing [*the physical healing*] and not also at the Healer” (Lenski, 878).
- c. Radical change: Earlier the Samaritan stood at a distance; *now he fell at Jesus’ feet!* Earlier he trusted in Jesus for physical healing; *now he trusted in Jesus for spiritual healing!*

5. **The Reassuring**: <sup>17</sup> Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed [*physically healed*]? Where are the nine [*the others who were healed*]?” <sup>18</sup> Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner [*non-Israelite*]?” <sup>19</sup> And he said to him, “Rise and go your

**way; your faith has made you well** [*healed you, cured you, restored you to both physical and spiritual health*].”

- a. The nine: With their leprosy they were so miserable; when they were healed their lives were so much better, *YET they gave no thanks to Jesus*.
- b. Believers are so blessed: “The gifts of God which we have received from [Jesus] through the means of grace... amount to far more than a cleansing from bodily leprosy... And yet we are very [negligent] about the gratitude which we owe to Him in thoughts, words, and deeds” (Kretzmann, 360).
- c. Let us continue to be grateful: “Jesus does not refer to the faith of the others.... Those who forget His kindness He also forgets.... Only lasting, grateful faith will provide lasting help and will save a person in body and soul” (Ibid).
- d. Made you well: Physical wellness is a wonderful blessing, *but spiritual wellness is SO MUCH MORE IMPORTANT and SO MUCH LONGER LASTING!* May God grant us physical wellness, **BUT ALSO** trust in Jesus – thus, *spiritual wellness, and lives that overflow with much gratitude!*

**This Week’s Challenge:** Are you like the cleansed Samaritan – physically well, spiritually well, and praising Jesus?

**Let Us Pray:** Father in heaven, we sinners are so blessed physical and spiritually – *TY; help us to show our thanks!*