

# RECLAIMED Obedience and Worship

Continue journey towards EASTER in the Gospel of Luke where Jesus “sets his face towards Jerusalem” and we’re spending time looking at some of those whom Jesus encounters all along the way.

Funhouse mirrors = distorted view

## Tension/Common Ground

Human condition is we have a distorted view/reality of the heart of the Father, experiences of life cause us to question the love and kindness of the Father. Our response to the Father’s goodness should be all-in obedience, but many times we just do what we want to do.

- In today’s scripture we see a group of people whose life was anything but fun and a lot of ways it was miserable.
- Leprosy
  - Variety of skin conditions
  - Leviticus 13:45-46 - Persons with an infectious disease must wear torn clothes, let his hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of his face and cry out, “Unclean, Unclean”
- This group that were shown the Father’s kindness and they all responded in obedience but one went beyond obedience.

Luke 17:11-19 New International Version (NIV)

**11** 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!”

- Pity
- Greek Word here can be translated pity and other translations mercy.
- (explain translations)

- Interpreted differently, meaning the same - using various translations can help gain a deeper understanding of the text
- Closest to the original (NIV or NRSV)
- Good to bring in paraphrased versions for clarity

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

- Lepers ask for mercy / pity from Jesus...not healing. They are looking to receive whatever it is that Jesus will give them...food, clothing, shelter, whatever he decides to offer, lived off the kindness of others-mostly family
- Culturally- not given mercy- avoidance of different and outcasts
- According to Jewish law (Leviticus 14) can declare a person healed of leprosy - 'clean' - and fit to re-enter society [which is why Jesus sends them to show themselves to the priest]
- Jesus' kindness went beyond their expectations=grace,
  - Jesus wants more for us than we can ask or imagine
  - **Worship Note** No one is **unloved** when it comes to God's **love**
- What's the appropriate response to the Father's kindness
  - Obedience
    - Lepers- did what Jesus said to do and in doing so it brought healing and restoration.
    - Deep friendship with God is a result of obedience, not like human friendship- enjoying each other's presence or doing what we have fun. Friendship with the father is doing what the father says to do
    - **Worship Note:** Litmus test of faith is **obedience**
      - Obedience according to God
      - Kids- first time I say it you obey it
      - God wants us to listen, annoying to have to keep repeating ourselves, God is kind but he doesn't enjoy selective hearing
      - God's Word lays out how we are to be obedient Him, by living and acting in a way that is pleasing to him.
        - He tells us how to do that
        - God expectations for those who are serious about being in deep friendship and truly following Jesus

- Money, relationships, purity, honesty, integrity, character- who your are when no ones watching, Treat people, words out of our mouths,
- Worship **Note:** Disobedience breeds **dissatisfaction**
  - Not Going to Seminary in 2004 story
  - Got off track
- There is another response that Jesus highlights as an appropriate response to the Father's kindness and that is praise and worship

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."

- This man came back to Jesus and maybe some of us here today have been doing what we want to do and we need to come back to Jesus today
- Foreigner/Samaritan
  - Foreigner one thing, Samaritan another
  - No one is unloved when it comes to God's love
- 2 things
  - Praise 1st, worship 2nd
    - Came praising
    - Recognized the source of kindness and love
    - Falling at the feet of Jesus (position of submission)
    - Corporate worship (Sunday morning) is a opportunity to respond through praise and worship to the Father's Love and kindness
      - Your participation in worshipping freely is a chance to respond to the Father's love and kindnesses just as the leper when he came back to Jesus
    - Worship and praise doesn't end at 12pm on Sunday and then start back at 11am the next Sunday
      - Weekly P&W

- Romans 12:1 NIV “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

### **Closing**

- Strive to be obedient in all the ways the Lord Calls:
  - Money, Relationships, etc.
- Prayer of obedience

Psalm 139:23-24 NIV

“Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Invitation:

- Come to Jesus
- Turn back to Jesus-like the leper
- Disobedience