

September 20th, 1863.

THE TEN LEPEERS CLEANSED.

LUKE 17. 11-19.

The usual road in travelling from the north of Palestine to Jerusalem would be through Galilee first, and then through Samaria. In the lesson it is said, v. 11., "That he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee." The most probable explanation is, that our Lord travelled along the boundary between Samaria and Galilee to the river Jordan, and then followed the course of that river down to Jericho, at which city we find him in the following chapter.

The Lepers *which stood afar off*, v. 12.—By the law of Moses (Lev. 13. 46.) lepers were cast off from all society, and regarded as outcasts, who might not dwell with others.

"*Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.*" Probably these lepers knew our Lord only as a worker of mighty miracles of healing, whose fame was spread over the land.

"*Show yourselves to the priests.*" The priests were specially appointed by God to be the judges of all leprous cases and to decide whether the leper was clean or unclean, cured or uncured. See Lev. 13 and 14 chapters.—Deut. 14. 8.

"*One of them turned back,*" v. 15.—The nine others were already healed and hastening to the priests, that they might be restored to the society of men, and their life in the world: but the first thoughts of the Samaritan are turned to his deliverer. He had forgotten all in the sense of God's mercy and of his own unworthiness.

"*He was a Samaritan,*" v. 16. Though he was a Samaritan, this man had been allowed to associate with Jewish lepers. Affliction, misfortune, and persecution, drive men together and make them forget points of difference, which in time of prosperity and ease are thought very different.

"*Thy faith hath made thee whole,*" v. 19. The making whole of the nine was merely the beholding of the brazen serpent with the outward eye. He beheld with the eye of inward faith. This faith saved him;—not only healed his body, but his soul.

Learn 1. How earnestly men can cry for help when they feel their need of it.—Those lepers were afflicted with a disease—They lifted up their voice and cried.—And the Lord heard them.

Learn 2. That when we obey a command, *help meets man in the path of obedience.* Our Lord told those men to go and show themselves to the priests. "It came to pass that as they went they were cleansed." This fact shows us the wisdom of simple, child-like obedience to every word which comes from the mouth of Christ.

Learn 3. What a rare thing is thankfulness. Of the ten lepers that were healed, only one turned back and gave Him thanks. We are all more ready to pray than to praise: and more disposed to ask God for what we have not, than to thank Him for what we have.

September 27th, 1863.

THE PASSAGE OF JORDAN.

JOSHUA 3. 1-17.

I. The First Proclamation, ver. 1-5.

They removed from Shittim to the banks of the Jordan, and encamped there three days, gazing on the Promised Land. The officers proclaimed to the people—1st, To be ready on the morrow, when the ark moved, to follow it; 2nd, That the ark might be seen by all, 2000 cubits, or more than half a mile, were to be kept between the ark and its followers; 3rd, They were called to sanctify themselves by washings and purifications.—*Ye have not passed this way heretofore*—referred to the wondrous manner of the passage not merely that it was yet untried. Imagine the excitement of the camp—all the promises of 4000 years were about to be fulfilled!

II. The Second Proclamation, ver. 6-13.

The morning came—"the tenth day of the first month." Joshua early receives his message from God, verse 7 and 8. *This day will I magnify thee, &c.* Moses was honoured at the passage of the Red Sea—so Joshua here. His greatness consists in God being with him