

S E R M O N .

ST. LUKE, CHAP. XVII. V. 17.

“And Jesus answering said, were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?”

THESE words were pronounced by our Saviour on the occasion of his having healed ten persons of leprosy. Ten persons afflicted with a loathsome disease, against which severe laws were enacted, enforcing a separation from the rest of the people of the infected persons, had been cleansed by a word pronounced by the Saviour of the world, because they desired it. Cast off and excluded from the society of their fellow men, they cried out, in the anguish of their souls: “Jesus, master, have mercy upon us.” Their prayer was no sooner uttered than answered: “Go shew yourselves unto the priests.” This, according to the Levitical law, was the examination to which every person who had been afflicted with leprosy, must be subjected—he must be pronounced clean by the priest, before he could be restored to the intercourse and society of his friends. The ten persons in question, while labouring under their severe affliction, while their hearts were softened by their sorrow, had sufficient faith to induce them to pour out their grief before God, and to shew him all their trouble. Yet no sooner did nine of the ten find themselves released from the plague than all its horrors vanished from their thoughts as though they had never had existence—all their solemn