LUKE 17

Faith That Forgives, Thanks and Watches

a brother to forgive seven times, a leper who came back, and a Day that will flash like lightning

> *"And He said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has made you well.""*
> LUKE 17:19

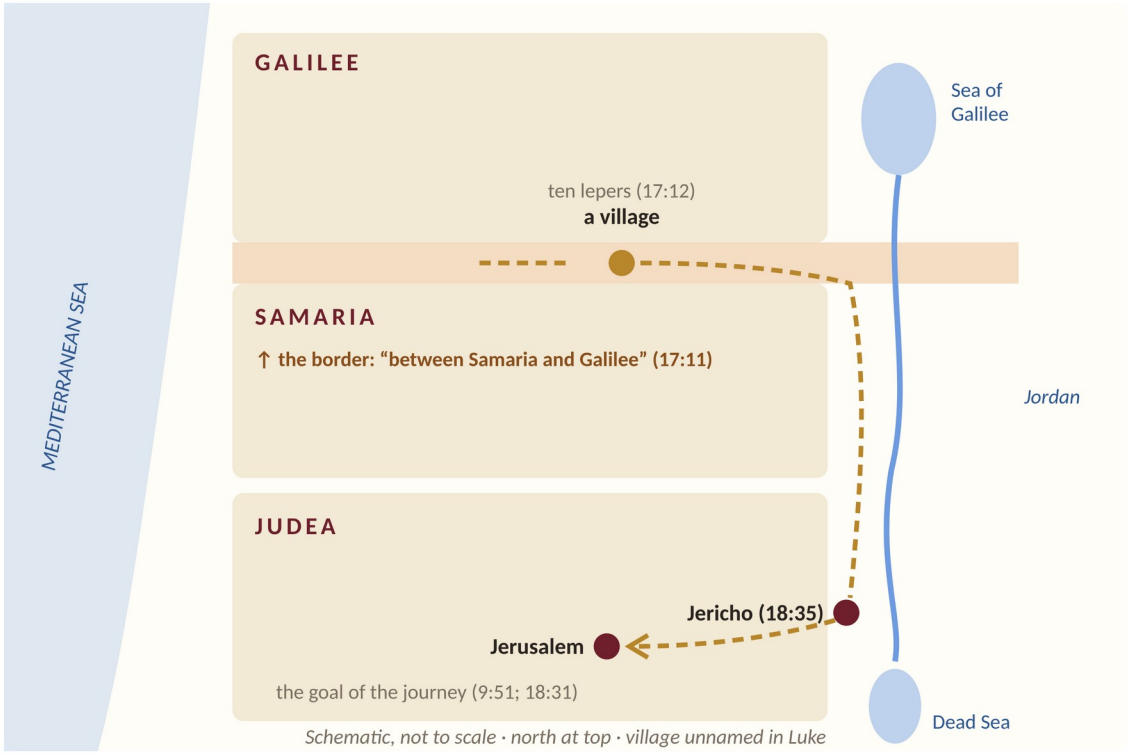
A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · FOUR VOICES: GUZIK · SPROUL · SPURGEON · HENRY

Where we are in Luke

1. Luke 17 sits in the long middle of Luke's Gospel, the journey that began when Jesus "was determined to go to Jerusalem" (9:51).

2. The chapter has two halves.

3. Verse 11 places Jesus "between Samaria and Galilee," on the border, heading toward Jerusalem.



Forgive, Believe, Serve

Stumbling blocks, a brother forgiven seven times a day, a mustard seed, and unworthy slaves

LUKE 17:3

"Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.

DAVID GUZIK

Don't keep a record; don't judge his repentance; faith pulls up bitterness.

R.C. SPROUL

No ceiling on forgiveness; little faith is enough; Christ alone is profitable.

C.H. SPURGEON

Faith grows — pray for it; even the best are unprofitable servants.

MATTHEW HENRY

Rebuke, then forgive; God cannot be made a debtor by our services.

σκάνδαλον

SKANDALON · "STUMBLING BLOCK"

Originally the trigger of a trap, the stick that springs it; then anything that trips a man and makes him fall.

Where Are the Nine?

Ten lepers at a distance, cleansed on the way, and one Samaritan who came back

LUKE 17:16

and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan.

DAVID GUZIK

Obedience was the condition; one came back — the unlikely one.

R.C. SPROUL

They obeyed before they were clean; feeling thanks is not doing thanks.

C.H. SPURGEON

Gratitude is rare; holy violence in prayer; believe first, as you are.

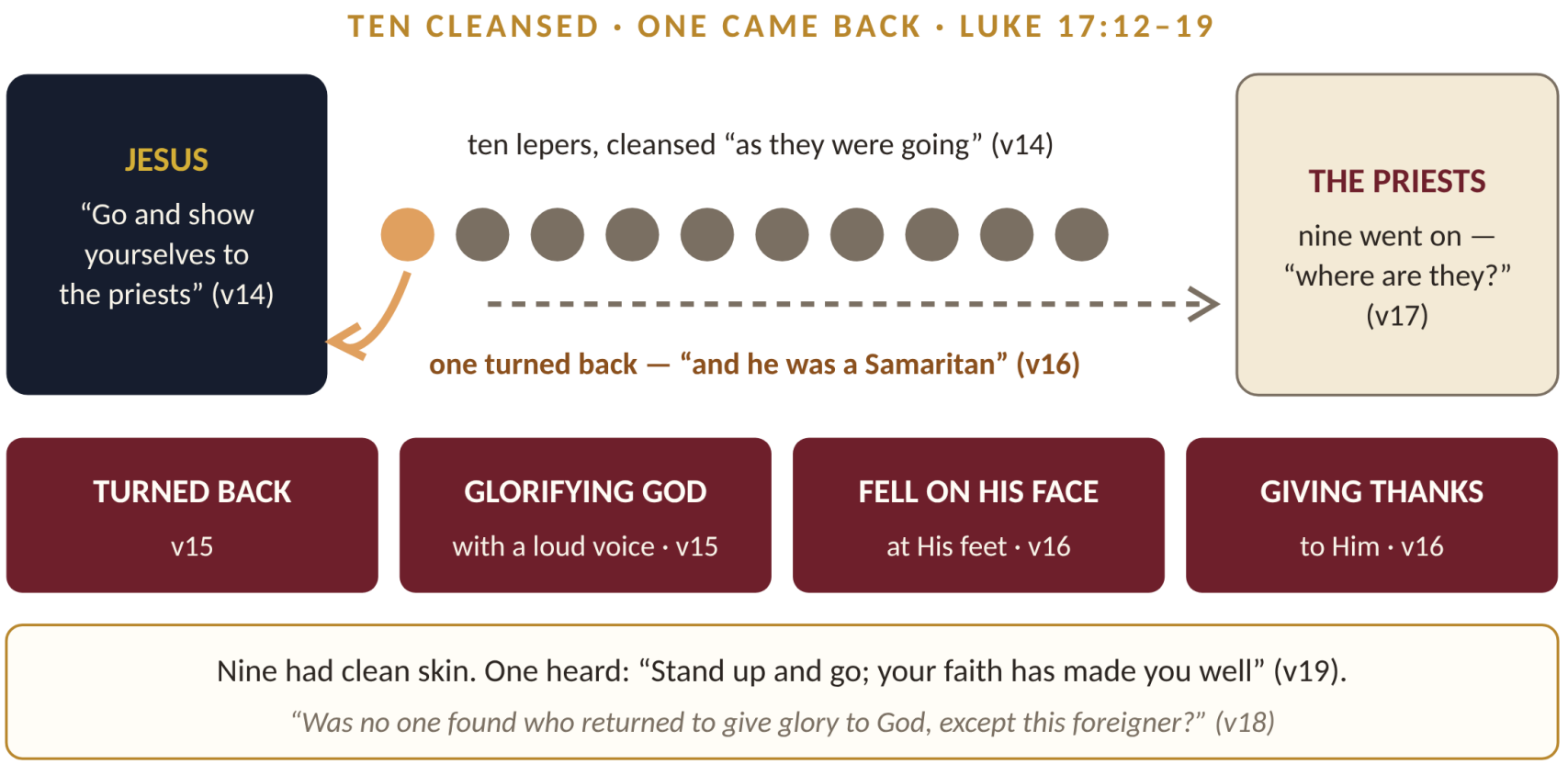
MATTHEW HENRY

A whole hospital healed with a word; ingratitude is a common sin.

ἀλλογενής
ALLOGENĒS · "FOREIGNER"

Literally "of another race" — allos, other, and genos, stock.

Ten cleansed, one came back



Follow the nine to the priests and the one back to Jesus; four verbs in verses 15–16 show what a thankful man does.

The Kingdom in Your Midst

The Pharisees ask when; Jesus answers who — and warns that first He must suffer

LUKE 17:20

Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed;

DAVID GUZIK

Not hostile scrutiny; the King was among them; don't skip the cross.

R.C. SPROUL

Where the King is, there is the kingdom; frankly unsure of the details.

MATTHEW HENRY

Within you — hearts and lives; the church is not lost when unseen.

παρατήρησις
PARATĒRĒSIS · "SIGNS TO BE OBSERVED"

A close, watchful observation, from para and tēreō, to watch beside.

Remember Lot's Wife

The days of Noah and Lot, a Day that will be revealed, one taken and the other left

LUKE 17:27

they were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

DAVID GUZIK

She lingered, doubted, looked back; often applied to the rapture.

R.C. SPROUL

Sudden catastrophe; much fulfilled in AD 70; one escapes — be ready.

C.H. SPURGEON

Almost saved, but not quite; flee the world or perish with it.

MATTHEW HENRY

As in the flood, so in that day; woe to those at ease in Zion.

ἀποκαλύπτω
APOKALYPTŌ · "REVEAL"

To uncover, to take the veil off — apo, away, and kalyptō, to cover.

The days of Noah, Lot and the Son of Man

"JUST THE SAME ON THE DAY" · LUKE 17:26–30

	THE DAYS OF NOAH · vv26–27	THE DAYS OF LOT · vv28–29	THE SON OF MAN · vv30–35
ORDINARY LIFE	eating, drinking, marrying, being given in marriage	eating, drinking, buying, selling, planting, building	life as usual — "on the housetop" "in the field" (v31)
THE DAY	Noah entered the ark	Lot went out from Sodom	the Son of Man is revealed (v30)
THE END	the flood came and destroyed them all	fire and brimstone — destroyed them all	one will be taken and the other left

Nothing was wrong with eating or building. What was wrong was that no one was ready (v27; 12:40).

Read across each row: the same ordinary life, a sudden day of separation, and an end no one prepared for.

What to carry from this chapter

1

Forgiveness is not a feeling; it is a command.

Jesus says “forgive him” twice in two verses (vv3–4).

2

Do not audit a man’s repentance.

Seven times in one day is not credible repentance — and Jesus still says forgive.

3

Faith’s power lies in its object.

A mustard seed and a mulberry tree whose roots were “thought to be extraordinarily strong” (Guzik, citing Geldenhuys).

4

Obedience puts no one in God’s debt.

Achreios — “unworthy, unprofitable.”

More to carry

5

They were cleansed as they went.

Jesus gave a command before He gave a cure (v14).

6

The foreigner came back.

Allogenēs (v18), the word that barred Gentiles from the temple courts, describes the only man who returned to give glory to God.

7

Nine were cleansed; one was made well.

The same words close the leper's story (17:19) and the blind man's (18:42): "your faith has made you well."

8

The King was standing in front of them.

Sproul: "Where the King is, there is the kingdom."

Talk it through

1. Who has sinned against me more than once — and what would it cost me to forgive him again today, without checking whether his repentance is “real enough”?

2. Do I quietly believe God owes me something for my obedience, my sobriety, my service? What would “we have done only that which we ought to have done” sound like in my mouth?

3. The lepers obeyed before they saw any change. What is Jesus telling me to do that I am waiting to “feel” before I obey?

4. Name one specific mercy God has shown me this year. Have I gone back to thank Him out loud — or am I one of the nine?

5. If the Son of Man were revealed tonight, what would He find me busy with? What is the “house” I would be tempted to go back into?

CLOSING

Luke 17 starts with a brother who keeps sinning and ends with a world that keeps eating and drinking. In between, ten men are cleansed and one comes back to say thank you. Forgive without counting, serve without boasting, give thanks out loud — and keep your eyes forward, because the Son of Man will be revealed.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

Full Deep Dive, O·I·A study and reflection journal: see the Luke study page.