

**To Speak in Parables**  
 Proclamation of the Gospel in the Parables of Jesus

*Misery Loves Company*  
 The Ten Lepers  
 Luke 17.11-19

Mark Vitalis Hoffman  
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Luke 17.11-19

<http://www.frontiemet.net/~sfum/gallery/c/erestory/The%20Ten%20Lepers%20EPS.jpg>

Luke 17

11 And it happened as Jesus was going to Jerusalem and passing through the region between Samaria and Galilee,

12 and as he was entering into a certain village, ten lepers confronted him who stood at a distance, and they raised their voice saying,

<http://www.pitts.emory.edu/woodcutz/171266A/0002521.jpg>

"Jesus, Master, show us mercy!"

14 And when he said to them, "Go show yourselves to the priests"

And it happened as they were departing that they were cleansed.



returned glorifying God with a great voice, and he fell upon his face before Jesus' feet, thanking him.

And he was a Samaritan.

17 And Jesus responded and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But the other nine, where are they? Were not any found of the ones returning to give glory to God except this foreigner?" (ἄλλογενής?)"

<http://collecties.meemanno.nl/handschriften/show/lu/7id-10561>

19 And he said to him, "Arise, go. Your faith has saved you." (σέσωκέν)

<http://collecties.meemanno.nl/handschriften/show/lu/7id-10561>

How does this story function in the Gospel?

- A miracle / healing story
- Highlights the extension of salvation to non-Jews (and the hardness of Israel?)

<http://www.frontiemet.net/~stunc/gallery/clestory/The%20Ten%20Lepers%20EPS.jpg>

How about...

- The strange setting of the story
  - pericope unrelated to preceding and following
  - Jesus is by himself
  - διήρχετο διὰ μέσον Σαμαρείας καὶ Γαλιλαίας
- 1 of 10?
- Samaritan / foreigner?

What if...

<http://www.frontiemet.net/~stunc/gallery/clestory/The%20Ten%20Lepers%20EPS.jpg>

A prophet was traveling from Galilee to Jerusalem. As he was entering a certain village, ten lepers approached him who, standing at a distance, raised their voices saying, "Master, have mercy on us!"

And the prophet saw them and said,  
"Go, show yourselves to the priests."

And it so happened, as they were leaving, that they were cleansed.

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned with a great voice glorifying God, and he fell at the prophet's feet thanking him.

And he was a Samaritan.

And the prophet said,  
"Ten were cleansed, weren't they? And the nine others, where are they? Wasn't any of them found to return to give glory to God except this foreigner?"

And he said to him,  
"Arise, go. Your faith has saved you."

If you have ears to hear, then you better listen!

How does this parable function?

- Tension between prophetic and priestly
- The surprise of one out of ten... and he is a Samaritan! >>>
- Misery loves company
- The healed/save love God



<http://www.frontiernet.net/~stunc/gallery/clestory/The%20Ten%20Lepers%20EPS.jpg>

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*A Thanksgiving Sermon*

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Now if this story were a parable, I think we would admit  
That it has parabolic elements that make it kind of fit.  
Ten Lepers would perhaps be a common enough sight,  
But *one* was a Samaritan!? That doesn't seem quite right.  
Jews and Samaritans together? How could that be?  
Unless it truly is the case that misery loves company!  
So when Jesus sent them to the Jewish priest,  
what did that Samaritan think?  
"Well, this guy may be a healer, but I think he needs a shrink."  
Still, the Samaritan went, yet he came back again too:  
A recovered leper who now imagined life from a whole new point of view.  
And us? If we think we're something special, do we play a social game?  
But if we count ourselves among the lost, do we see we're all the same?  
For while we are a gathering of saints; we're recovered sinners too.  
Our past has been forgiven—not forgotten—so what's a sinner/saint to do?  
Can you even call it a choice to do anything other than say,  
"God, thank you!"