**Topic:** “Transformed to Proclaim”

**Thesis:** “Whatever blessings we may experience in this life, it is so that we can tell others about the goodness of Jesus”

**Introduction:**

* Jesus was making His final trip to Jerusalem.
* This travel would take Him through Galilee and Samaria.
* While He was on His way, He passed through a certain village, where there were ten (10) lepers.
* READ - Luke 17:11-18

1. Lepers in need of help.
   1. In Jesus’ day, if you had leprosy, your life was practically over.
   2. Aaron refers to it as being as if you were dead (Numbers 12:12)
   3. All lepers were to be placed outside the camp. Numbers 5:1, 2.
   4. This disease “begins with specks on the eyelids and on the palms, gradually spreading over the body, bleaching the hair white wherever they appear, crusting the affected parts with white scales, and causing terrible sores and swellings.
   5. From the skin the disease eats inward to the bones, rotting the whole body piecemeal.”
   6. “In Christ’s day no leper could live in a walled town, though he might in an open village.
   7. But wherever he was he was required to have his outer garment rent as a sign of deep grief, to go bareheaded, and to cover his beard with his mantle, as if in lamentation at his own virtual death.
   8. He had further to warn passers-by to keep away from him, by calling out, ‘Unclean! unclean!’ nor could he speak to any one, or receive or return a salutation, since in the East this involves an embrace.”
   9. So, for these lepers,
      1. They had no family, they had to wish their families good bye.
      2. They had no jobs, they could not earn a living.
      3. All their hopes and dreams were dissolved.
      4. All they had were the company of each other.
   10. But, then, hope sprang up in their hearts, as they heard that Jesus was passing by.
       1. They probably heard that He cleansed lepers before and He can heal all manner of sickness and disease.
       2. Therefore, they cried out to Him for help and mercy.
       3. “With a LOUD voice”
   11. In response, Jesus told them to go and show themselves to the priests (Lev. 14:2).
       1. As they went in obedience to the words of Jesus, they were cleansed.
2. Lepers experienced transformation.
   1. Now, life has taken a sudden turn for these men.
   2. Their lives were restored to them.
   3. They now had hope of returning to their families.
   4. They could now find a job; they could earn a living for themselves; they could pursue their dreams.
   5. In one moment, in one expression of mercy from Jesus, their lives were restored.
   6. I can just imagine the joy and happiness that filled their hearts
      1. they can’t wait to go and tell their friends and families what had happened to them.
      2. All of us can identify with moments like these—moments of getting another chance:
         1. Maybe you were sick unto death, and God allowed for your life to be restored.
         2. Maybe you met in an accident that was life threatening,
         3. Maybe you were held up by gun men, but somehow God allowed you to be spared.
         4. Maybe you lost your job and thought life had ended for you.
         5. Maybe you got pregnant and drop out of school; though that was the end of it.
         6. Maybe you were on drugs; living a riotous life, but Jesus found you.
      3. Whatever it is, we can all identify with what it means to get our lives back.
   7. The question I asked, as I read this passage of Scripture is, “When other people see them after this,
      1. how many will know that life was not like this for them,
      2. how many will know that they were once practically dead,
      3. how many will know that once upon a time they had no life; they were lepers, but for the grace of God, they would have been dead?
3. Transformed to tell your story.
   1. The only way people would know, is based on how they lived their lives after this and the story they tell—
      1. If they lived their lives to testify of Jesus’ love
      2. Only if they understand that they were not transformed so that they can live for themselves; they were transformed, so that they could glorify the name of Jesus.
   2. What type of life do you live?
   3. How do I live my life to glorify God? How do I tell my story?
      1. 1st – I must tell others what Jesus has done for me.
         1. **READ: Psalm 105:1–5**
         2. **READ: Psalm 34:1–3**
         3. People must know that “if it had not been for the Lord on my side”.
         4. *YOUR EXPERIENCE: Share your personal experience of transformation*
      2. 2nd – Live your life in complete devotion to Jesus.
         1. While the Samaritan man came to Jesus to give thanks, is there anything that Jesus would ask him to do that he wouldn’t do?
         2. So, how, sometimes we give the impression that we are doing God a favour when we
            1. Work for the church
            2. We need to do evangelism
            3. When we are asked to build an app; design some website.
         3. Luke 7:36-42—Take the example of the Woman who broke the alabaster box.
            1. This is was the difference between Simon and the Woman who anointed Jesus’ feet
            2. She didn’t do what she did, because she was a worse sinner than Simon, she was only more grateful.
            3. When Mary looked at her life, and what Jesus had done for her, she saw no sacrifice too great to make for her Lord.
         4. If you are living your life to glorify Jesus, it will show on TWITTER; it will show on FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM
         5. When people are reviewing your profile, they will see that this man/woman is devoted to Jesus.
         6. Will People know that Jesus has done something special in their lives.
      3. 3rd – we not only emphasize with, but we reach out a help those who were in a like position as we were.
         1. When this former leper sees other lepers, what word do you think he has for them?
            1. Man, I was a leper . . .but Jesus found me
            2. “Once, I was sinking deep in sin . . .”
         2. That’s why we can’t show off on others.
      4. 4th – When you are going through difficult times, you praise God, rather than complain.
         1. When this leper faced future difficulties, how do you think he behaves?
         2. Can it get any worse than being a leper?
         3. **Application:** 
            1. So, when we are tempted to complain about the **shoes** we don’t have; let’s thank God we have feet.
            2. When we are tempted to say the **money** is not enough, let’s thank God we have a job.
            3. When tempted to complain about the cost of food, let’s thank God we live in a free country.
         4. Ungratefulness was Israel’s number one problem. They failed to keep God’s acts of mercy on their hearts and lips.
            1. When faced with impossible situations, they totally forgot the impossibilities that God delivered them from (Psalm 106)
4. Where have all the stories gone?
   1. Jesus asked the question, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?”
   2. This story suggests that there are more people in the world who need to be living their lives to glorify God than those who are doing so now.
   3. How many men were lepers and in need of help?
      1. Ten men were lepers;
      2. ten had their lives practically over;
      3. ten had to live in isolation;
      4. ten cried out to Jesus;
      5. ten got healing from Jesus, but only one returned to express gratitude and gave glory to God.
      6. Ten men were seeking God in prayer,
      7. ten were crying out to Jesus,
      8. ten got healing,
      9. Ten men were in a hole;
      10. ten were in a desperate situation;
      11. ten could not help themselves;
      12. ten were healed,
      13. but only one returned to give thanks.
      14. This shows that more people have benefited from God than are praising Him now with their mouth and with their lives.
   4. What this world lack is not blessed people, but grateful people.
   5. What the Church lack is not blessed people, but people who would live out what God has done for them.
   6. It’s not to say that if more people were blessed, more would giving thanks; more would be serving God, but if more were grateful, more would be praising God.
      1. If all the people who have been blessed by God as were these 10 lepers were to serve Him and worship Him with their lives, this church wouldn’t have space to hold people.
      2. We would have more people sharing the gospel through technology.
   7. This world is not lacking people who have benefited from Jesus, it lacks grateful people.
5. CONCLUSION AND APPEAL
   1. You may not have found yourself in a desperate situation;
      1. you may not have been sick and in need of healing;
      2. you may not have been poor and in need of help,
      3. but all of us are indebted to Jesus for what He has done for us.
   2. Leprosy can be compared to sin. For as leprosy is to the physical body, so is sin to the spiritual.
   3. We were all spiritual lepers (Romans 3:8-18; Isaiah 1:5, 6).
   4. But, Jesus was willing to pay the price for us, so that we can have a second chance to life. Isaiah 53:5-7
   5. Therefore, every one of us have a reason to praise God and to live a life of thankfulness.
      1. None of us have anything to boast about.
   6. “What shall I render.. . .”
   7. The best way to reveal to the world how good God has been to us, is to live our lives to glorify His Name.
   8. To tell others our story
   9. And to live our lives in total devotion to Him; holding nothing back.