

IS GOD ON AN EGO TRIP? – Discussion guide

(Luke 17:11-19)

1. What is something you enjoy greatly and love describing to others?
2. How does describing it add to your enjoyment of it?
3. Read [Luke 17:11-19](#) and the other passages below and answer the questions that follow.

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance ¹³and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” ¹⁴When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed. ¹⁵One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. ¹⁶He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? ¹⁸Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

- What might be possible reasons why only one of the ten that were healed returned to thank Jesus?

Leprosy was the AIDS of Jesus’ day. It was believed to be highly contagious and greatly feared. It carried with it significant social and moral stigma because Jewish law prohibited all with infectious skin diseases from worship and fellowship with the faith community (cf. Leviticus 13:45-46). These people were cut off from community life. Upon recovering from these diseases, the law required a long series of steps to be taken before a person could be reinstated into fellowship and admitted into worship. These steps are detailed in Leviticus 14:1-32. You may want to read Lev 13:45-46 and 14:1-11 to get a feel for the problems lepers faced and what was required for their reinstatement.

- What light does this background information shed for you on the Samaritan leper’s response?
4. Jesus acted on the leper’s behalf by healing him. The leper’s response was he “*came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him*” (15-16). At this point in your life, what kind of action on God’s part would it take to prompt that kind of response from you?
 5. When could you take time this week—before the weekend—to reflect on God’s goodness to you?

How will you say thanks?

We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the ordinary, small (and yet really not small) gifts. How can God entrust great things to one who will not thankfully receive from Him the little things?

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, German pastor and WWII martyr