

Leviticus 13:45-46

Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, 'Unclean! Unclean!' He shall be unclean. All the days he has the sore he shall be unclean. He is unclean, and he shall dwell alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.

WOW, could you imagine being a leper in Jesus' time? Everyday, no matter where you were, your life would consist of having to cry out, *Unclean! Unclean!* Plus, you would always *dwell alone* and your *dwelling shall be outside the camp* meaning that you couldn't hang out with your friends or family any longer.

I know before I became a Christian, I sort of felt like a leper, because when I walked into church I knew that I was a sinner, and I saw all these people who loved the Lord and I wanted to cry out *Unclean! Unclean!*

But then over 35 years ago, Jesus got a hold of me and cleansed me of my sins, just like He did with the lepers. And since I have been saved, there is no more having to be alone and feeling out of place in church. But more important, no longer feeling like I need to cry out "*Unclean! Unclean!*" because Jesus has cleansed me of my sins.

But maybe you have been a Christian for a long time now, and maybe you have forgotten what the Lord has saved you from. Or there are some of you who have said the sinner's prayer, yet you don't live like you are saved at all. Maybe you think that just because you said a prayer that you can go out and live like hell and still get into heaven.

In the book of Luke, it tells of how Jesus healed ten lepers, yet only one was thankful and his life had changed; yet the other nine ignored it like nothing happened at all.

† **Luke 17:12-19** *Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "**Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?**" And He said to him, "**Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.**"*

It makes one think about how many will go forward for an altar call and even say a prayer, but never change at all. So they just go on their merry little way thinking they are saved because they said a prayer. But sometimes we are just as guilty of leading them astray, because we tell them that all they have to do is say a prayer. But we tend to leave the repent part out, meaning we don't tell them that they need to make the decision to also turn from their sins along with their confession.

So maybe out of every ten that go forward, one out of those ten get it and truly say the prayer from their heart and also repent as well. And you can tell which one that is, because you can see the change in his or her life.

Maybe you are one of those who said the prayer, but never truly wanted to change. Maybe you only said it just to stay out of hell. But Jesus called you forward to say the prayer because He wants a relationship with you. Not to just be used as a get out of hell free card.

There is a saying that goes: *If you are going to heaven, then why are you living like you are going to hell?*

It's time for all of us to stop being like the nine, and start being like the one. We need to remember what the Lord has done in our lives and what He has saved us from, and let's glorify the Lord and thank Him with our lives for saving us.

For those who only said a prayer, today's it's time to make that decision to do what Jesus said and repent of your sins and start living like you are going to heaven. It's time to have a relationship with the One who died for you and wants to have a relationship with you.

† **Mark 1:14-15** *Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "**The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.**"*

For those who have said the prayer and your life was changed, but now you have been compromising your walk and living more like you are going to hell, it's time to turn and repent and live like you are going to heaven as well.

If you truly **believe in the gospel**, then it's time to start living like you believe it.