**Assignment 9.**

**Q). Choose a passage of the Bible and apply the principles applied in this session in order to interpret it. Produce a summary outline of how you would preach this passage.**

Jesus heals ten men with Leprosy. Luke 17;11-19.

Now on his way to Jerusalem. Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests”. And as they went, they were cleansed.

One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him - and he was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well”.[[1]](#footnote-0)

Author.

Luke was a Doctor, he was Greek, and probably a gentile Christian. He was a close friend and companion of Paul. He is the only gentile author in the New Testament. He wrote the gospel of Luke and Acts. His audience at the time were Theophilus and the gentiles.

He wrote about 60 AD. Luke wrote from Rome and possibly Caesarea.

Luke's writings were lengthy and showed he was well educated. Luke stresses Jesus' relationships with people, illnesses and diagnoses. He emphasizes miracles, angels and prayer. He also gave women prominence. Most of 9:51 - 18:35 is not found in any other Gospel.

Luke affirms Jesus' divinity but emphasizes Jesus’ humanity. Jesus Son of God and Son of Man. [[2]](#footnote-1)

Theophilus is mentioned twice in the Bible, beginning with Luke and Acts. Theophilus means, “one who loves God”. Not much more is known about him. Some think that he was a literary figure representing Christians generally, while others think he was a recent convert who needed further instruction in his newfound faith. It is also possible that Theophilus was Luke’s patron, helping him finance and publish Luke & Acts. [[3]](#footnote-2)

Luke’s gospel is the truth as he carefully tells us that he “carefully investigated” his facts so that the reader could know “the certainty of the things you have been taught” (1:1-4). Wherever we can check his facts, whether historical, political, social or geographical they are accurate. Luke emphasises the incarnation and resurrection so that we know the truth of these 2 events that are foundational to the Christian faith.

Luke also tells us that Jesus came for everyone. Starting with Jesus’ genealogy from Adam, not Abraham. When Jesus suggested this the Jews turned on him. In the parable of the good samaritan Jesus dared to suggest that there could be such a thing as ‘a good samaritan’. [[4]](#footnote-3)

Setting.

Jesus in the above scripture was walking to Jerusalem, towards the cross with his disciples. They were in a place called Perea, south of Jerusalem, between Galilee and Samaria.

Characters

Jesus, disciples and 10 men with leprosy.

Leprosy.

Leviticus 13 and 14 tells us about skin diseases and what we can and can't do if suffering from them. The words clean and unclean in these 2 chapters occur over 60 times! So the integrity of the body and material objects closely related to the body, are of utmost importance and have a significant impact on the wholeness and holiness of a community. To be clean was to be whole, to be whole and without blemish was to be holy and acceptable communion with God. These 2 chapters do not mention sin or the requirement of confession of sin from an afflicted person. [[5]](#footnote-4)

If a person has any kind of skin complaint they would have to see the priest, who would examine them. If after 14 days the skin complaint has not disappeared or has got worse then they are “unclean”.

The disease leprosy, is an infection caused by a slow growing bacteria called, “Mycobacterium leprae”. It can affect the nerves, skin, eyes and lining of the nose. It is spread by droplets from the nose/mouth etc.[[6]](#footnote-5) Many sufferers often lose limbs to the disease as it affects the nerve endings of the body's extremities. In Bible times people were outcast and lived in separate areas outside of the community (and still do today in many parts of the world).

Sermon outline.

Introduction. Faith to make you whole, return to God.

Talk briefly about the author, in this case Luke.

The setting, Jesus on way to Jerusalem, towards the passion. Set the scene, location etc...

Jesus in company with his disciples.

Tell a short story…….A time to go home.

Brian a teenager in America, left school at 16 to become a prizefighter against his parents wishes. God had a good future mapped out for Brian and his parents didn't want him to throw it away. He watched trains as they pulled out of the station and figured he could jump onto one and go wherever it took him. Over a few weeks of this mode of transport he went to a small Kansas town. He saw a travelling circus who wanted prizefighters. He joined the circus and wrote to his parents. They were worried sick and never stopped praying for him. For 8 months he continued to travel and fight, he never lost a fight! His parents continued to pray daily for him. In a cold February not long after the circus folded up. The nearest circus was 20 miles away. Brian decided to join that one. He knew the train that would take him there. He hid under the station's loading dock, waiting for his opportunity to board the train. The train pulled away, he ran towards it. It was going faster than he expected. The ground narrowed, he was running along a small ravine, ahead was a bridge, he wasn't going to make it. He jumped up at the boxcar and grabbed the floor, gripping the edge with his fingertips. His body dangling dangerously over the edge. He shouted, “No, please God help me, don't let me die”. Just then a tall black man appeared inside the boxcar and helped him up into it. He lay face down on the floor and caught his breath. He closed his eyes and prayed a silent prayer of thanks that he was alive. When he opened his eyes the boxcar was empty!

Brian knew that this was a miracle from God so he went home to his parents. His father said that the man must have been an angel! Brian returned to school, was baptized, served in the 2nd world war, taking part in 28 missions in the South Pacific. On his return after the war to New Orleans, he became a minister and his church was one of the largest in the city!. So Brian returned to God after God blessed him with a miracle![[7]](#footnote-6)

Jesus comes across 10 lepers, they are outside the village due to their disease. They shout to Jesus to heal them. So this suggests distance between them and Jesus. Jesus tells them to go and show themselves to the priest. Mention Leviticus 13 & 14 briefly. The lepers turn to go to the priest and ON THE WAY they are healed.!

So the lepers made a decision to have faith in Jesus as they walked away, they were not healed straight away but physically made the decision and were healed. They believed that Jesus was going to heal them even before they moved! However one came back, praising God and fell at Jesus' feet. He was a Samaritan.

I would explain Samaritans and the history, Samaritans claimed to be from the 2 tribes Manasseh and Ephraim (Sons of Joseph). They believed that God should be worshiped on Mount Gerizim, whilst the Jews said it was the Temple Mount on Mount Moriah. The Samaritans believed that they kept the traditions of the ancient-israelites before the Babylonian captivity. Whereas Judaism was seen as the altered and amended religion. However it was the Jews who looked down on the Samaritans.

So why did Jesus say that the Samaritan had Faith that has made him well, surely all 10 had faith??

The word Faith here is Pistis in Greek. Credence; moral conviction, especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly, constancy in such profession; by extension, the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself.[[8]](#footnote-7)

So Jesus here is suggesting that the Samaritan had a different faith, that his faith was more of a whole faith.

Verse 17 says, cleansed….Katherizo in the Greek, means to cleanse (literally or figuratively) make clean, purge, purify. It's where we get the english word, catheter from. Therefore Jesus is saying that the Samaritan was healed from the inside out, not just skin deep. Whereas the other 9 were healed outwardly. This leper had faith that made him whole from the inside out.

The Samaritan received from God a miracle and returned to God to praise Him. He had found wholeness in God, his soul was healed.

Do we have faith that has made us whole? If so, what are we doing to return to God, to give back to God what he wants of us. Are we doing God’s work, do we volunteer for things to enhance his Kingdom, to show God’s glory to others. Were the other 9 lepers too busy to come back to worship God, were they too selfish to recognise what God had done for them to return their thanks and gratitude. The Samaritan came back to Jesus because he knew where he had come from and what his life was like before.

God just wants us to return to Him what he has given us in our lives. God gave up HIs life for us, He wants us to give our lives to Him.

Be thankful for God in prayer and in your praise, fall at Jesus feet, He’s waiting for our love.

Don't just take the blessing, be the blessing!

1. Life application study bible. NIV. p1711. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. Life application study bible. NIV. p1656 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. CSB study bible notes. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. Open your Bible, All in one bible guide, Creative Int. p 317. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
5. Interpretation, A Bible commentary for teaching & preaching. Leviticus. S.E.Balentine. p105. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
6. WHO website [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
7. Karen Kingsbury. Miracles, Zondervan publishing house. p390-432. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
8. Strong's dictionary of the bible, loc 47407 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)