

A TRIAL OF OBEDIENCE

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Luke 17:11-19

Trials are indeed a part of life; not simply trials in the form of tribulations and burdens but trials in the sense of testing. A trial is the state and/or process of testing and proofing. Trials and tests are an essential part of the learning process. For instance, you are tested before you enter school, while in school, and even to exit school. Some of you were even tested before you could get your job. Testing is a part of life. We will have trials to see if we truly love God. We will have trials to see if we obey God. Obedience is the true measure of our worship, praise, and exaltation of God. God wants to know if you will obey Him. Everyday He grants you life He wants to know that you will be obedient to Him. In the text, the ten men had a trial of obedience.

The ten men with leprosy came to see Jesus for healing. No matter what the disease is, if it meets Jesus, He can always turn it around. When they saw Jesus, they cried out for mercy. They had been ignored and dismissed by the people of their community but Jesus saw them differently than others saw them. When Jesus looks at you he sees promise, hope, and a plan, **Jeremiah 29:11**. He sees that you were made in his image. He sees that you have been washed in the blood of the lamb so when you are suffering he has to intercede to God to have mercy on you. Jesus saw their suffering. He told them to go show themselves to the priest. Their healing and deliverance was contingent on their obedience to the Word of God. It was a trial of obedience. You can learn from this because everyday we live is a trial of obedience.

- The first thing these men teach us about being in a trial of obedience is we must be willing to listen. Listening doesn't mean just hearing someone. Listening means you give someone your undivided attention. How many of you had parents that reprimanded you for not paying attention to them? God has to sometimes knock us down for us to listen to Him. Sometimes we have to go through a crisis to get the picture. Those ten men were ostracized from their community. Because they were outside, they were more willing to listen to God. They were in a crisis situation. Why must we always have to wait for a crisis to occur before we call on the name of God? We need to listen with our eyes and ears. Turn your eyes into ears. If you read the Word of God and seek to live by it, that is turning your eyes into ears. It is treating the Word of God as scripture and not just a book. If we desire to encounter God, we can do so through the Word of God. But we have to be willing to listen.
- Once God has your attention, you must be willing to obey God and do exactly what He says. Jesus told the men to show themselves to the priest. When he told them that, they still had leprosy. They could still see their spots. There was no change in their situation but Jesus told

them to go show themselves to the priest. They heard the words of Jesus and obeyed him. As they went to the priest, they were healed. They didn't suffer from the Moses syndrome. Moses did not speak to the rock as God had instructed him at Meribah. He struck the rock. He was disobedient to God which affected his destiny,(Num 20:6-13). Your disobedience can negatively affect your destiny. God wants to show you that He does not have to touch you to heal you. All He has to do is speak. Don't get caught up in the way God blesses. Get caught up in obeying God so that you can see that He will bless. God doesn't always come the way you expect Him to come. He doesn't have to come the way you want Him to come. God operates counter to human expectations. The reason you have to be obedient is because you don't know what God is up to.

God already knows the story of your life. In fact, He wrote it. God knows how this thing is going to turn out. When you are disobedient, you are trying to rewrite the story God already had written for you. Therefore, He has to take you a roundabout way to get you back on track. That's why the children of Israel had to wander around in the wilderness for forty years. When you disobey God, you delay your destination. Do exactly what God says. Obedience is better than sacrifice. When you are obedient to God, you will see miracles that occur in your life that you could not do on your own.

- When you are willing to listen and obey God, you have to be willing to give God glory. Ten men were healed but only one went back. The nine probably didn't go back because they were so excited they wanted to get to the priest to show their blessing. They didn't offer praise to Jesus. However, one man looked at himself and he looked new. He had to go back to tell Jesus thank you. He probably thought about the times in the past when he was going through but now he was new. He felt he had to get to Jesus. He praised God until he saw Jesus. When he saw Jesus, he fell to his feet to say thank you.

If God has blessed you in any area of your life, are you willing to give Him glory? Are you unashamed to give Him glory, honor, praise, and exaltation? Are you willing to be obedient to the Word of God? Go back and tell Jesus, "Thank You." Your blessing and your overflow that you didn't even ask for is in your thanksgiving. You have to couple your obedience with thanksgiving. Testify of how good God has been to you. You have to be willing and make a conscious effort to not only bless the name of the Lord but to also have a relationship with Him.

Peace.

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