Jesus wants us to understand the concept of authority. We are to put ourselves under the control of Jesus by following His commands. Just as the leprous men asked Jesus to take control of their illness, we are to submit every part of our life to Jesus' control.

Day #2: The Faith to “Go”

As we learned yesterday, having leprosy not only harmed the person’s body, but it also crushed the person’s spirit. Once a person caught the disease, he could no longer live with his family and friends. He had to live alone, or with other people who had leprosy. He could not go to a job to earn a living. He had to depend on the charity of others just to have food to eat. The religious leaders of the day thought that anyone with leprosy was spiritually unclean. They could no longer go to worship God in the temple (2 Chronicles 26:21).

The ten men called out to Jesus for healing. Jesus responded:

He looked at them and said, “Go show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy. - Luke 17:14 (NLT)

Jesus could have cured them on the spot, but instead, He told them to go to the priests. According to the law given to Moses, each person with a skin disease had to be examined by a priest. The priest had specific instructions written in the law that outlined when a person’s illness was infectious. The priest would look the person over very carefully. Then the priest would announce if the person was “clean” or “unclean” (Leviticus 13:1-46). The last time these men had seen the priest, the priest had pronounced them unclean. It would take great faith for them to go back - especially before they were healed! Luke 17:14 tells us that, “as they went, they were cleansed.”

What do you think they thought when they saw their skin returning to normal? Suddenly, their numbness left. For the first time, possibly in years, they could feel the rocky ground beneath their feet as they ran down the road. The town in the distance became clear in their sight as the disease left their eyes. They looked forward to hugging their loved ones once again because their bodies were restored.

It was the faith of the ten lepers that enabled them to go before they saw results. They had not yet been healed, but they believed in Jesus’ word. They did not fear being laughed at by returning to the priests before they were healed. Jesus said to go. They LISTENED and OBEYED because of their faith.

As you look at these ten men, do you see the importance of faith in the healing of a person? Ask God for faith that will enable you to trust Him even before you see results.

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. - Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)

Day #3: Gratitude of One

Think back to the last time you gave a gift to someone. How did the person respond? Were they grateful? Did they thank you? If you have ever given a gift or done a favor for someone who was ungrateful, you know it is
Day #3 continued:

sometimes a very disappointing feeling. We naturally feel that the bigger the gift or favor, the more grateful the recipient should be.

After the ten diseased men realized they were completely healed, what do you think their response was?

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.” - Luke 17:15-19 (NIV)

Only one man returned to thank Jesus! This man had a completely correct response. He poured out his genuine gratitude for the One who could do what no one else could do. This man’s life was given back to him. His pain was relieved. His grotesque appearance was gone. And, perhaps best of all, his isolation was over. He praised God in a loud voice! He threw himself at Jesus’ feet in thankfulness. But where were the other nine men? They did not return to Jesus.

We are even told that the one grateful man was a Samaritan. Because Jesus calls this one a foreigner, we can assume the others were Jews. The Jewish people were God’s chosen people. They, above all others, should have recognized God’s hand in their healing. How was it that God’s chosen people, who knew God’s power and promises, did not take the time to praise God? Yet, the outsider, who knew very little about who God was, fell to his knees in worship.

Are you most like the nine, or the one? We must not only feel gratitude inwardly, but we must show it outwardly. When we show our gratitude to God, others will learn of His greatness.

Give thanks to the Lord, and proclaim His greatness. Let the whole world know what He has done. - Psalm 105:1 (NLT)

Day #4 continued:

UNTOUCHABLE! What a blessing even Jesus’ touch was to this man.

We must remember how those around us need a touch from Jesus. Today, Jesus uses Christian believers to reach out to those in our world who are hurting. Read the verse below and discuss why God comforts us.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. - 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV)

Day #5: What About Us?

Take a moment to imagine you were one of the ten men with leprosy. Imagine your despair when, in the midst of your worst physical suffering, you would have been thrown out of your own town. People would have had nothing to do with you. When you came near, people would have scurried far from you. When anyone saw you, they would point and yell, “Unclean!” How would it feel? Now imagine one day, this exceptional man, Jesus, simply spoke, and you were made clean.

As ugly and painful as leprosy is, we live in a condition that is much worse. We live in the condition of sin. The Bible tells us we have all chosen to sin (Romans 3:23). In a way, our story this week is a picture of our sin disease and Jesus’ restoration of us.

The ten men knew without a doubt that they had a terrible problem. They were physically sick, and their sickness caused them to be separated from all those who were “clean.” They could do nothing to help themselves. They recognized the power and authority of Jesus to heal them of their illness. They submitted themselves to Him by calling Him Master. They called out to Him for cleansing. By faith, they received His saving gift. They did not earn it. They simply received it and were healed. Their bodies were made new, fresh, clean, and whole. And, they were able to return to the presence of those who were clean.

The Bible tells us that we are just like these ten diseased men:

All of us have become like someone who is “unclean.” All of the good things we do are like polluted rags to You. - Isaiah 64:6a

We were each born with a sin nature, and not one of us is without sin. The awesome news is, the Bible also tells us that there is ONE way for us to be made new.

Each of us must recognize he is a sinner (Romans 3:9). Our sin separates us from God, because He is perfect (Isaiah 59:2). We can do nothing to help ourselves. There is no amount of good things we can do to undo the sins we have committed (Isaiah 64:6a). We must each recognize the power and authority of Jesus to take away our sins (John 1:29). We must submit ourselves to Him by confessing He is Lord (Romans 10:9). By faith, we must trust that when Jesus died on the cross, His blood fulfilled God’s requirement for the forgiveness of sins (1 John 1:7). We cannot earn this free gift (Ephesians 2:8). When we believe this, we are a new creation. Our old nature is gone; we have a new nature (2 Corinthians 5:17). We are then reconciled to God because our sins are forgiven (2 Corinthians 5:18). We will one day enter heaven to live with God forever (John 6:40).

We can clearly see how wrong it was for the nine lepers not to pause and thank Jesus for their deliverance. Yet, they were saved from physical disease that is temporary. We, who believe in Jesus, are saved from spiritual disease that is eternal. Therefore, live a life of gratitude to the Savior.

I will give thanks to the Lord because He does what is right. I will sing praise to the Lord Most High. - Psalm 7:17