

Lefti with 1 Eye

HAVING AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

By MissHeather



Leprosy is a nasty disease! We don't see or hear about Leprosy much anymore, but in the time of Jesus it was a horribly contagious disease that couldn't be fixed. The disease hurt the skin and the nerves. It would even hurt people's breathing! Leprosy would also cause people's bodies to become deformed.

In Bible times, a lot of people had Leprosy. Since Leprosy was so awful, people who had the disease were sent away to live outside towns or villages so that they wouldn't infect anyone else. Can you imagine what it would be like to be sent away from your family and friends because you were sick???

The true story that we are going to explore is found in the book of Luke. Luke is in the New Testament (the second, smaller half) of the Bible. It is the third book (Matthew, Mark, Luke). Once you find Luke, look for the big number 17 (that is the chapter). We will be looking at verses 11 to 19.

One day, Jesus was journeying to a different city. As he approached a small town a group of 10 men called out to him. People with Leprosy were not allowed to just walk up to someone because they could give the disease to them, so they always had to warn people that they were around.

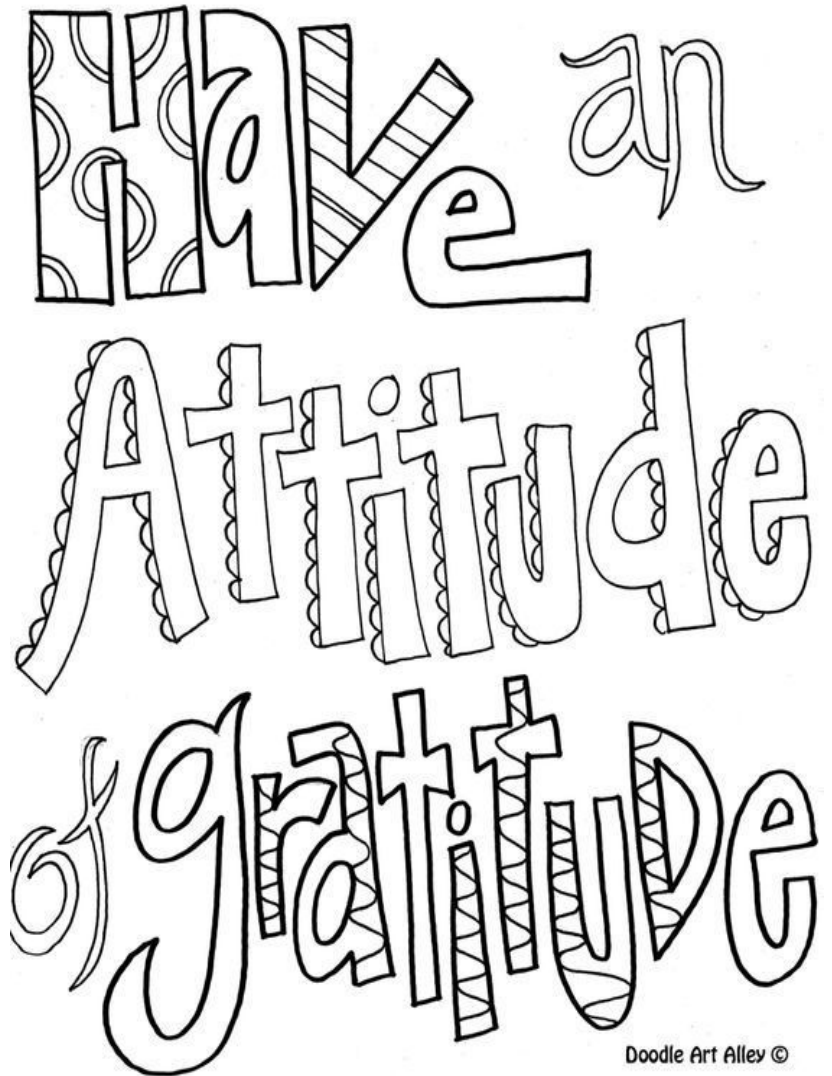
The group of men yelled out to Jesus saying "Jesus, Master, please have pity on us."

Jesus did have pity on them! Their disease and distance from their family and friends made Jesus extremely sad. He hated to see how lonely, depressed and in pain they were.

Luke 17 International Children's Bible (ICB)

14 When Jesus saw the men, he said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." While the ten men were going, they were healed. 15 When one of them saw that he was healed, he went back to Jesus. He praised God in a loud voice. 16 Then he bowed down at Jesus' feet and thanked him. (This man was a Samaritan.) 17 Jesus asked, "Ten men were healed; where are the other nine? 18 Is this Samaritan the only one who came back to thank God?" 19 Then Jesus said to him, "Stand up and go on your way. You were healed because you believed."

Sometimes, in our excitement, we can forget to be thankful, just like the 9 men who had been healed of their Leprosy. They were so excited to be out of pain, to be able to go back to their homes and see their families and friends. In happiness and excitement we still need to remember to be thankful or grateful.



In hard times we can also forget to be thankful and grateful. When things are not going the way we want it can be hard to think of all the great things that we still have in our lives.

People are doing a lot of complaining right now. Maybe YOU are doing a lot of complaining right now. God is hearing a lot of complaining right now. Let's try to think of things that we can be thankful for. Let's remember to tell our parents and God thank you for all the good things that are in our lives, not just the bad things.

Psalms 107:1 International Children's Bible (ICB)

Thank the Lord because he is good. His love continues forever.

