

## The Story:

Have you ever had a sore or rash on your skin? You might have put cream or powder on it to make it go away. Sometimes, the rash or sore might just go away by the next day.

In the times of Jesus' ministry, people sometimes got sores or a rash that would not go away. The medicines they had in those times did not cure those skin problems. Sometimes, the sores would get so bad that the person would die. This was called leprosy.

People with leprosy could not get close to anyone else in case others got leprosy, too. People with leprosy could not hug anyone or eat with anyone. They had to live away from the city. They could only be with other people who had leprosy.

Once, there were ten men who had leprosy. They did not live in a city. They had to stay away from everyone. They must have been very sad.

The ten lepers had heard about Jesus. They heard that Jesus could make people well. The problem was that the men could not just walk up to Jesus because they did not want Jesus to get leprosy, too. Instead, they waited on the road for Jesus to walk by. When they saw Jesus approaching them, they called him before He got too close.

The ten lepers said, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

Jesus must have been very sad to see these men. They would have had sores, and some of them might have even had leprosy so long that their toes or fingers might have rotted off. The lepers probably even stunk.

Some might have just wanted to run away from the men, but Jesus did not run away from them. He told them to go and show themselves to the priest. The ten men listened to Jesus and went. While they were going, they were healed! Jesus could have ignored the ten men, or run away—but Jesus healed them and made all the leprosy disappear instead!

The men were so happy! They could hardly believe it when they looked at their healthy skin. Now, they could go and be with their friends, and now they could go and give their families a great big hug.

Now that they were healed, when they saw the priest, he would have a special ceremony for them, and the men would get permission to go back to the city where the other people lived.

Most of these ten lepers were Jewish men like Jesus, and the apostles were, but one of the lepers was a Samaritan. Jews and Samaritan Jews did not like each other very much. The Jews thought the Samaritans were not very good people. They thought they were better than the Samaritans.

But as the ten men continued toward the priest, one man, a Samaritan, stopped and began walking back to Jesus. He wanted to say “thank you” for what Jesus had done.

The Samaritan was so thankful that Jesus had healed him that he threw himself down by Jesus’ feet and kept saying, “Thank you.” Others thought that Samaritans were not good, but Jesus knew that this man had a good heart and was full of faith. After all, the other nine kept going on their way to the priest and didn’t return to thank Jesus.

Jesus told the man to go ahead and go to the priest. He said to the man, “Go, your faith has made you well.”

The man went on his way very happy and thankful.