SERMON FOR DISCUSSION: Returning to God

Luke 17 v11-19

They all got it right!

There were 10 men in great need and THEY ALL cried out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" (Luke 17 v13)

There was nothing worse in the ancient world than to contract leprosy.

For leprosy cut one off completely from normal society.

- -One lost one's family, one's home, one's job.
- -Even the right to worship in the Synagogue.

To avoid infecting others all lepers had to live as outcasts away from everyone else. The only company was other lepers.

So, without doubt, they were men in great need.

And they did the right thing:

They came to Jesus and they all asked him with great intensity to heal them. There was no half-heartedness in their request.

They got it right.

-They went to the right person and asked the right request.

They also got the next thing right, too.

THEY ALL WERE OBEDIENT.

Jesus commanded them (v14) "Go, show yourselves to the Priests"

And THEY ALL went to the Priests.

They ALL obeyed.

None refused to do as they were commanded by the Lord.

AND BECAUSE they went to the right person and made the right request and obeyed and did as they were commanded ALL WERE HEALED.

ALL TEN got their lives back.

ALL TEN were able to go back to their homes, to their families, to their jobs and to worship again.

ALL TEN were restored to full health.

And they were returned to health NOT because of their faith BUT BECAUSE OF THEIR OBEDIENCE.

Verse14: "AS they went, they were healed"

They all got it right AND YET NINE WERE ADMONISHED

V17 Jesus said, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?"

On a church picnic a little boy was given an orange. "What do you say?" said his Mother **PEEL IT!** said the little boy.

Ingratitude is a great sin.

NINE were so enjoying their new health, their return to their homes, their families, their jobs and community life again THEY FORGOT to give thanks to God the giver of their new life.

"Has no one RETURNED to give praise except this one?" said Jesus v18

The secret to a thankful life lies 'IN RETURNING'

In **turning FROM** all the good things we have and **turning TO** God to say 'Thank You'.

It's all a matter of our priorities.

- -Asking
- -Obeying
- -Thanking

2 out of 3 is not enough!

Preached by Martin Tanner in St Mary's on Sunday 6th September 2015 at 8.30am