

a script from



WORSHIP

"The Ten Lepers Reunion"

By
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What	Years after Jesus healed ten men with leprosy, several gather for a reunion and reminisce about the day their lives changed forever. Their celebration becomes uncomfortable when someone asks a simple question: Why did only one of them go back and thank Jesus? Themes: Thanksgiving, Gratitude, Healing, Blessings, Jesus, Remembrance, Worship
Who	Eli - adult male Jonah - adult male Micah - adult male
When	Biblical Times, several years after the healing of the ten lepers
Costumes	Simple biblical robes, sandals, belts, and head coverings as appropriate.
Props	Low table, three stools or chairs, cups, simple food, bread, water jug
Why	Luke 17:17-18
How	The drama begins as a warm reunion between men connected by an extraordinary shared experience. They should laugh easily and genuinely enjoy remembering what happened. The humor must never make light of leprosy or the suffering associated with it. The repeated phrase "I was going to" can become a subtle comic motif.
Time	10-12 minutes

Lights up on three men gathered around a low table. There is food, conversation, and the relaxed atmosphere of old friends meeting again.

Eli: Look at us.

Jonah: I *am* looking at us.

Eli: No, really. Look at us.

Micah: We're older.

Eli: That wasn't what I meant.

Jonah: He's right, though.

Eli: I meant look at our skin.

They instinctively look at their hands and arms.

Eli: After all these years, I still do that.

Jonah: Me too. Every morning.

Pause.

Micah: Sometimes I wake up and, just for a moment, I think it was all a dream.

Jonah: Then you look at your hands.

Micah: Then I look at my hands.

Eli: And there it is.

***Eli** holds out his arms.*

Eli: Clean.

*The three men quietly appreciate the significance before **Eli** deliberately lightens the mood.*

Eli: Admittedly, slightly more wrinkled.

Jonah: That's age.

Eli: I preferred leprosy as an explanation.

Micah: You did not.

Eli: No. I definitely did not.

They laugh.

Jonah: Do you remember that day?

Eli: Every detail.

Micah: We were standing outside the village.

Jonah: Keeping our distance... always keeping our distance.

Micah: Then someone said Jesus was coming.

Jonah: And we started shouting.

Eli: We were good at shouting.

Jonah: We had to be.

Micah: *(reenacting)* "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

Brief pause as the memory settles.

Eli: And He stopped.

Jonah: That's the part I remember.

Micah: Me too.

Jonah: Everyone else kept their distance from us.

Eli: But He stopped.

Pause.

Micah: Then He told us to go and show ourselves to the priests.

Eli: Which, at the time, seemed slightly premature.

Jonah: We still had leprosy.

Eli: Exactly. I remember thinking, "Perhaps we should discuss the sequence of events."

Jonah: You didn't say anything.

Eli: I had leprosy. I wasn't going to argue with the one person willing to help us.

Micah: So, we went.

Jonah: And while we were going—

All three instinctively look at their hands.

Micah: We were healed.

Silence.

Eli: I started running.

Jonah: You started *screaming*.

Eli: I was excited.

Jonah: You frightened a shepherd.

Eli: He recovered.

Jonah: His sheep didn't.

They laugh.

Eli: I ran straight home.

Micah: So did I.

Jonah: My wife just stood there.

Eli: My mother screamed.

Micah: My children wouldn't come near me at first.

Jonah: They were used to keeping their distance.

Micah: Then my little girl realized.

His voice softens.

Micah: She ran straight into my arms. It was the first time I had held her in years.

Eli: That must have been emotional.

Micah: It was.

Brief silence.

Jonah: Best day of our lives.

Eli: Without question.

They raise their cups.

Eli: To being alive.

Jonah: To being clean.

Micah: To Jesus.

*They drink. **Micah** thinks for a moment.*

Micah: Whatever happened to that fellow?

Eli: Which fellow?

Micah: The Samaritan.

Eli: Yes, Him.

Micah: The one who went back to thank Jesus.

An awkward little silence.

Eli: He was always a little impulsive.

Micah: Impulsive?

Eli: We had been specifically told to go to the priests.

Jonah: That's true.

Eli: We were following instructions.

Micah: He went back to thank the man who healed him.

Eli: I'm not criticizing him.

Jonah: Neither am I.

Eli: Good for him. He was a very grateful man.

Pause.

Micah: Why didn't we go back?

Silence.

Eli: I was going to.

Jonah: So was I.

Micah: When?

Eli: After I saw my family.

Jonah: Exactly.

Eli: I hadn't been home properly in years.

Jonah: Neither had I.

Eli: I thought, "I'll see the priest, go home, see everyone, then I'll find Jesus."

Micah: Did you find Jesus?

Eli: No.

Pause.

Eli: But I was going to.

Jonah: I intended to as well.

Micah: What happened?

Jonah: Life.

Micah: Life?

Jonah: I had to find work again. Reintroduce myself to people. Rebuild everything.

Eli: Exactly.

Jonah: Then someone said Jesus had moved on to another village.

Eli: That happened a lot.

Jonah: I thought, "I'll catch Him next time."

Micah: Did you?

Jonah: No.

Pause.

Jonah: But I intended to.

Eli: Besides, I assumed He knew.

Micah: Knew what?

Eli: That I was grateful.

Micah: How?

Eli: He's Jesus.

Pause.

Eli: I was extremely grateful.

Micah: You just didn't tell Him.

Eli: I told everybody else.

Pause.

Micah: What?

Eli: I told my family. My neighbors. The priest. People at the market.
Anyone who would listen.

Jonah: He told strangers.

Eli: It was an impressive story.

Micah: But you never told Jesus.

Eli hesitates.

Eli: No.

Jonah: I thought about sending Him a note.

Eli looks at him.

Eli: A note?

Jonah: Yes.

Micah: Did you?

Jonah: No.

Eli: What would you have written?

Jonah: I don't know. Something appropriate.

Eli: "Dear Jesus. Thank you for curing my incurable disease. Sorry I couldn't tell you personally. Very busy. Regards, Jonah."

Jonah: I would have written something warmer than that.

Eli: "Kind regards"?

Jonah: Definitely.

*They laugh. **Micah** does not.*

*Gradually **Eli** and **Jonah** notice.*

Eli: What?

Micah: There were ten of us.

Jonah: Yes.

Micah: All ten healed.

Eli: Yes.

Micah: All ten got our lives back.

Pause.

Micah: And only one went back.

The humor disappears.

Jonah: We were excited.

Micah: I know.

Eli: We had families waiting.

Micah: I know.

Jonah: We were trying to rebuild our lives.

Micah: I know.

Pause.

Micah: But He gave us our lives back.

Long pause.

Micah: How did nine of us forget to say thank you?

No one answers.

Micah: Maybe gratitude you only feel isn't quite the same as gratitude you express.

Silence.

Jonah: We enjoyed everything He gave us.

Eli: Our families.

Jonah: Our homes.

Micah: Our work.

Eli: Our health.

Jonah: Our future.

Pause.

Micah: And we became so busy enjoying the blessing that we forgot the blesser.

The three sit quietly.

Eli: Do you think He noticed?

Micah: I heard later that He asked about us.

Jonah: Asked what?

Micah: "Were not all ten cleansed?"

Pause.

Micah: "Where are the other nine?"

Long silence.

Eli: He noticed.

Micah: Yes.

***Eli** looks at his hands again, but this time there is no humor.*

Eli: All these years I've looked at these hands and remembered what happened.

Pause.

Eli: But I'm not sure I remembered the Man who made it happen.

Jonah: Can you say thank you years later?

Micah: I hope so.

Pause.

Micah: Maybe the important thing is not to wait any longer.

The three men slowly stand.

Jonah: Ten of us received the blessing.

Eli: Only one returned.

Micah looks toward the direction in which they once encountered Jesus.

Micah: Maybe it's time the other nine did too.

Lights slowly fade.