

A script from



“Ungrateful”

Nine Lepers React

by

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What	Nine lepers are healed from their leprosy by Jesus, but their hearts remain in need of change. Themes: Thanksgiving, Gratefulness, Healing, Attitude of Gratitude, Excuses		
Who	Leper 1 Leper 2 Leper 3 Leper 4	Leper 5 Leper 6 Leper 7 Leper 8	Leper 9 Leper 10 Reader
When	Bible times		
Wear (Props)	Costumes Option A: dress according to biblical times in the middle east Costumes Option B: modern dress, but not fancy or trendy—the lepers have been outcast in the leper community until this moment. Think neutral colors. Optional Props: Several of the men could carry unwrapped gauze and ace bandages.		
Why	Luke 17:11-19; Psalm 9:1		
How	Be careful of dead space between each leper. You almost need to overlap to keep it moving. You may omit characters or dialogue to edit for time or number of actors. When you have a larger cast, it's easy to get jumbled up on stage. Have at least one rehearsal dedicated to the blocking (where each actor goes) of this skit. Then encourage each of your actors to move with confidence instead of shuffling feet or looking like they're not sure where they're supposed to be. This will help with the timing and will keep the skit from dragging along.		
Time	Approximately 9 minutes *Edit dialogue for time if needed		

Reader reads Luke 17:11-14a from whatever version your group is familiar. Center stage or bring the lights down and read it offstage and bring the lights up as the lepers enter.

All **Lepers** loudly enter the stage while rumbling at the same time saying things like:

"I hope this works? I can't believe this! Is this for real? This is so amazing! What do you think the priest will do? If I hear "unclean" one more time... He took pity on us! What is happening? Was that really Jesus?"

Leper 1: *(Stops suddenly while looking at his fingers & loudly interrupts the group)*
Wait! Stop, guys. Look! Look at my fingers. Look at my fingers! Look!

Everybody stops in the middle of the stage and begin inspecting their arms and feet and such. Get creative with blocking. It's a crowd but it shouldn't look lopsided and no one should be too hidden from view.

Leper 2: Check out my hand. It's clean! The leprosy's gone.

Leper 3: My nose! My ears! I can feel them.

Leper 4: *(Pensive)* We're healed.

Leper 5: We are. We really are! We're healed!

Leper 6: *(Very excited – keeps pausing to look back but is definitely more engaged in what's to come)* It was Jesus. He truly did it. I need to thank him. This is so unbelievable. I probably should turn around. But...well. I can always thank Him later. I'm just so excited! He'll understand. There are so many people to tell! Who can stop now? I'm sure I'll find Him again at some point. I'll definitely get around to it. Wow. This is so crazy.

Leper 3: *(Starts out in awe but moves to jealousy & disappointment)* I can actually feel my nose. *(Looks at Leper 6)* Hey buddy, can you see it? How does it look? Gaze upon the new nose, dude. Wow. Hmm. Look at, um...your nose. Huh. Your nose looks great. Let me take a little closer gander, there. *(Too much in Leper 6's personal space)* Did your nose look like that before you got leprosy? I think your nose might look better than mine. What's up with my nose? It's big, isn't it? It is. I can tell. You don't have to say it. Why can't my nose look like your nose? Man...

Leper 3 keeps fidgeting with his nose and **Leper 6** keeps looking back as they exit the other side of the stage.

Leper 7: *(Talking to himself/very hurried)* I cannot believe how many weeks, months...years have been lost. There's so much to do now. So much to catch up on. Maybe, I should run back quickly and say "thanks". *(Brief*

pause) Who am I kidding? There's no time. I need to make the journey to the priest, show him my arms. Then there are rituals, reunite with the community, get rid of these bandages, find some fresh clothes, blah blah blah, blah...Gotta go, gotta move. If I hurry, I can get to the priest before these guys.

Leper 7 rushes off stage – perhaps, mouthing his list while counting his "to-do's" on his fingers.

Leper 8: *(Engages Leper 2 in conversation / stomps foot – could get silly if you think your audience would respond to it)* This feels great. I can feel my toes. There's no tingling in my foot. We're really healed, aren't we? *(Maybe runs in place)* I feel like I could run all the way to the priest! *(Stretches his arms and suddenly cringes)* Well, you think he could've healed my tennis elbow while he was at it. *(Sneezes)* And these allergies! I have to go all the way back to the priest while wheezing and sneezing? Good grief. This is going to be the longest walk ever. *(Might lean on Leper 2 a bit)* If he can heal my skin, why not get rid of some of some of these wrinkles and add a little hair to the old bald head, you know? I can't believe I have to go try to find a wife now looking like an old geezer. *(Defeated and shaking his head)*

Leper 2: *(Addressing Leper 8 despairingly)* Oh, please. What about me? I've been in the leper community for nine years. Nine long years! I can't get that time back. Almost a decade! I don't even know if my wife will have anything to do with me after all this time. I've missed my kids growing up. They're not even going to know me. It's more than I can bear. And now, I guess I have to get a job—a real job—and you know, work. *(Sigh)* There goes all my "me time." *(Shakes his head)* Tough times, I'm telling you. Tough times.

Leper 8 and Leper 2 head off the stage together.

Leper 9: *(Slaps Leper 4 a little hard on the back/arrogantly)* "It's about time. I don't know why I of all people had to deal with leprosy as long as I did. And why in the world did that guy get healed? He's a jerk. I mean you and I deserved it, but him? Come on. What can he possibly contribute to society? Am I right? Of course, I'm right. And don't even get me started on the Samaritan. What's that all about? I'm just glad I can finally get back where I belong. You hear what I'm screaming, don't you? *(Punches Leper 4 too hard in the arm)*

Leper 4: *(Addresses Leper 9/timidly and worried while Leper 9 scoffs at him)* Yeah, but... do you think this is really real? I mean, really, really ...really real? What if it doesn't last? What if we wake up tomorrow and the leprosy is

back? Or maybe, the leprosy is even worse than it was before? How can we know if we'll even make it through the night?

Leper 9: *(Dismisses Leper #4's fears as he put his arm around Leper #4's shoulders)*
Please. You worry too much. We deserve this. We got this!

Leper 9 and Leper 4 walk off stage.

Leper 1: *(Talks to himself; possibly wanders a bit; perhaps others are pulling him back on the right path; preoccupied)* Nobody is going to believe this. I totally need to post this on Instascroll. Where's my abacus? Now that I have fingers again, I'm dying to play "Angry Pheasants" with that thing! This is awesome.

Leper 1 heads off stage. **Leper 5** and **Leper 10** move close to the side of the stage but don't actually exit.

Leper 10: *(Addresses Leper 5)* This is the most incredible thing that has ever happened to me. What a great debt we owe. I'm heading back to thank Jesus.

Leper 5: *(Responds to Leper 10; apprehensive)* You're thinking we should go back? I...I don't know. I'm not sure he meant to heal me. I'm not even worthy of being healed. Who am I? If he knew all the thoughts I've had and the things I've done. What if...I don't know...what if he realizes he made a mistake the second he sees me? I just can't risk that. I don't want to get too close to him, you know? But you go ahead, I guess. I just...I just can't approach him.

Leper 5 heads off stage almost like he's hiding or skulking away.

Leper 10: *(Music begins to underscore)* All I know is that I was diseased and dying and rejected. And after encountering Jesus, now I'm healed. *(Runs back to the center of the stage and shouts)* Jesus! Jesus, wait! Please, just a moment! Jesus! Thank you! You are worthy of praise! Jesus, thank you!

2 ALTERNATE ENDINGS:

1st Option: The Hymn of Thanks

After his last line, **Leper 10** can recite Psalm 100 or invite your group to read Psalm 100 together with him.

2nd Option: The Recap

*Instead of **Leper 10** running to the middle of the stage, **Leper 10** runs to the other side of the stage and shouts, "Thank you, Jesus! You are worthy of praise!" Then, the other **Lepers** file back onto the stage and deliver the following lines.*

Leper 6: So how about you?

Leper 7: Have you run back to Jesus to praise and thank Him?

Leper 8: Are you regularly pausing to reflect and give thanks to God?

Leper 9: What's blinding you from gratitude this Thanksgiving season?

Leper 6: Do you realize stopping to give thanks is important but you just keep putting it off—procrastinating?

Leper 3: Are you so engrossed with comparing yourself to others that you're missing the magnitude of what Jesus has done for you? Are you looking at others instead of the author of your faith who humbles and inspires awe?

Leper 7: Or are you just plain busy? Too busy to reflect on His goodness and respond with gratitude? Are you a slave to the tyranny of the urgent instead of enjoying God's presence?

Leper 8: Are you consumed with always wanting more? Has chasing contentment in temporary things replaced resting in God and being satisfied with who Jesus is and what He's given you?

Leper 2: Or are you so focused on your circumstances that you've missed Jesus in the middle of the storm? Have you forgotten to offer sacrifices of thanks in all circumstances?

Leper 9: Or is there bitterness and pride that has taken root and choked out your sense of gratitude? Has your spirit of entitlement blinded you to your need of Jesus and just how overwhelming his grace and healing really is?

Leper 4: Has gratefulness been overshadowed by doubt and unbelief? Are you thinking on the "what if's" and "if only's" instead meditating on His gracious presence and gifts?

Leper 1: Or are you so preoccupied with social media, your phone, entertainment, and escapism that you rarely quiet yourself and think on all the reasons Jesus deserves your thanks and praise?

Leper 5: Or have you so narrowed your sights to your own perceptions of yourself and your own shortcomings that you miss God's blessings and purposes for your life?

Leper 10: Here's the good news today: Jesus died for you so that He could heal your dying, diseased heart and be restored to community with God the Father. If He never ever did anything else for you, that would be enough reason to thank Him for eternity! But the truth is, God loves you and longs to give good gifts to you. He blesses you in small, subtle ways and in ways you're often unaware. He is the very reason you live and move and have your being. He is worthy of gratitude! So, do you want a joyful Thanksgiving season? And in every season? Pause. Confess those things that block your flow of gratitude, ponder His goodness and mercy, and then in everything give thanks for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

So, seriously...go out and have a Happy Thanksgiving.