



---

## GOD MEETS *YOU* IN YOUR MESS

---

One of the most misunderstood areas of Christianity is not knowing God's true nature. Many believers feel they must first clean up their act in order to approach God. This could be no further from the truth. In Luke 17:11-19 we see 10 lepers that came to meet Jesus. Many times, this passage of scripture is used to describe healing, but I want to look at this story from a different approach.

“Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee” (Luke 17:11). The setting of this story is extremely important. During Jesus' earthly ministry Jews and Samaritans did not mingle. Samaritans were considered Gentiles, who were outside the covenant. The Jews in the Old Testament were God's chosen people and other nations were considered Gentiles. Jews did not even go to Samaria nor did they associate with them but here we see Jesus passing through a region that Jews would not. We see Jesus going into territory that religion would not enter.

Lepers in Jesus' day had to stay at least 300 feet away from others and if not, they could be stoned to death. These lepers were separated from their families, could not work, and were outcast of society but we see Jesus in their region interacting with them. Even though they had no rights with God and religion would say don't go near them, Jesus was not intimidated by their disease or circumstance. Where other people would not go and where other people would not be around, Jesus would.

Jesus was not intimidated by their disease or situations like others, nor is He intimidated by any of our situations or circumstances. Jesus will meet us in the bar, at the liquor store, or in a dark alley where others may not want anything to do with us. Jesus loves people and did not come to be around saints but sinners. He came to seek and save that which was lost and to save sinners (Luke 19:10, 1 Tim 1:15).

Religion will say “you've made your bed, now lie in it”. Jesus is saying “you've made your bed, you're lying in it but if you allow me to get in it with you, I can help get you out”. Jesus said if you've seen me, you've seen the Father (Jn 14:9). We must get a clear picture that God is not distant from us in our mess but is willing to meet us right in the middle of it if we allow Him.

---