

October 13, 2019

Luke 17:11-19



“The Plan is Love”

# The people of the world approach:



**They are** angry, poor,  
broken, ill, mentally  
& emotionally scarred,

racially

different

unacceptable to many.



<sup>11</sup> On the way to Jerusalem,  
Jesus traveled along the border  
between Samaria and Galilee.

<sup>12</sup> As he entered a village,  
ten men with skin diseases approached him.  
Keeping their distance from him,

<sup>13</sup> they raised their voices and said,  
“**Jesus, Master, show us mercy!**”

**Grace**

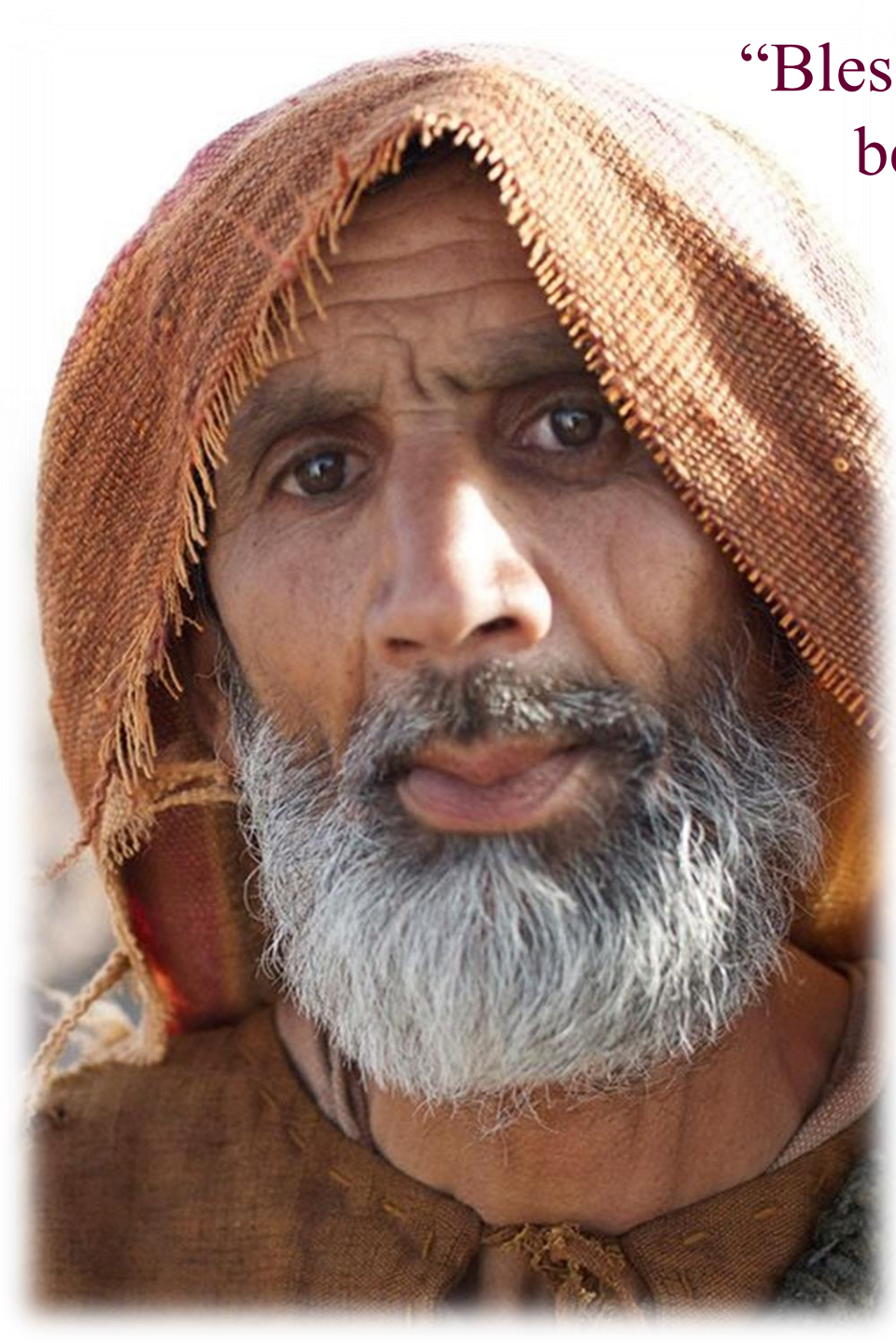
**Acceptance**

**Welcome**

**Wanted**

**Wishing for...**





“Blessed/Happy are the people who are hopeless,  
because the kingdom of heaven is theirs.”

-- Matthew 5:3

*The message is to us, to consider these a priority!*

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**They are created in the image of God.**

**They are broken by life.**

**They are loved by God.**

**They are distanced by humans.**

**They are close to God.**

**They are despised by humans.**

**They are chosen by God.**

**They are resented for being poor by humans.**

**They are given the Kingdom of Heaven by God.**

**Imagine** our homes and families *when love is the way.*

**Imagine** our neighborhoods and communities *where love is the way.*

**Imagine** governments and nations *where love is the way.*

**Imagine** business and commerce *when love is the way.*

**Imagine** this tired old world *when love is the way.*



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We must be careful *of waiting for someone else to act differently before we fully engage with God's Love and Grace.*

We could pause *to realize that does not see us any differently than those we resent.*

We can all imagine *a world, community, where we infused "Love, Grace, & Hope into those around us....then we remember the "But"*



Where parental support has declined,  
We can tutor.

Where self-esteem is shattered,  
We can instill hope.

Where others  
gain distance  
from the  
hopeless,  
We can  
engage  
to  
understand.



Where no answers live,  
We can stand beside for strength.

Where churches close,  
we can open and accept.



“Proximity has taught me some basic and humbling truths, including this vital lesson: Each of us is more than the worst thing we’ve ever done.

The true measure of our character is how we others— **Bryan Stevenson**

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**Character is revealed** in how we treat the least among us.

**Proximity reveals** our willingness to be Christ to others.

**The Grace given** reveals the Grace we have received.

<sup>14</sup> When Jesus saw them, he said,  
“Go, show yourselves to the priests.”

**As they left, they were cleansed.**

<sup>15</sup> One of them,  
when he saw that he had been healed,  
returned and praised God with a loud voice.

**<sup>16</sup> He fell on his face at Jesus’ feet  
and thanked him. He was a Samaritan.**

<sup>17</sup> **Jesus replied,** “Weren’t ten cleansed?  
Where are the other nine?”

<sup>18</sup> **No one returned to praise God  
except this foreigner?”**

<sup>19</sup> Then Jesus said to him,  
**“Get up and go. Your faith has healed you.”**

***What do those who live far from  
God have to teach us?***

***What can I learn from this person?***

***Is how I see them the God sees me?***







People who give Grace,

“Do unto those downstream  
as you would have those upstream  
do unto you.”  
— Wendell Berry





“You are far more than your worst day, your worst experience, your worst season, dear one. You are more than the sorriest decision you ever made. You are more than the darkest sorrow you’ve endured.

Your name is not Ruined...

You are not an anemic victim destined to a life of regret. Not only are you capable, you have full permission to move forward in strength and health.” — Jen Hatmaker,

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***When this is our message to our community, we will see change.***

***When we realize how fragile our lives are, we will understand.***

***When others see our heart of Grace, they will come.***

What if it's not "them" who has lost their hope,  
rather it is us!

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**Forgive them for being poor & angry!**  
**Forgive those who have & won't share!**  
**Forgive the "that's not going to happen"!**  
**Forgive yourself for losing hope!**

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"Love flows unstoppably downward,  
around every obstacle—like water.

Love and water seek not the higher place but  
always the lower.

That's why forgiveness is often the most powerful  
display of love in action."

— Richard Rohr, [The Universal Christ](#)

