

Where Are The Others?

By Ron Boatwright

In Luke chapter 17 Jesus healed ten men that were lepers. Then in verses 14-18 Jesus said, "Go show yourselves to the priests'...And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, 'Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?'"

Jesus could ask the same question today. "Where are the others?" At 9:30 AM for Sunday morning Bible study there are a number who choose not to attend. Are they sleeping late or too lazy to come? And what about Sunday evening worship when there is less than half in attendance than that morning? Did they have something else "better" to do? On Sunday evening Jesus is probably asking, "Where are the others?"

On Wednesday evening those who return are small in number. "Where are the others?" Are they home watching television or resting after their day's work? What about gospel meetings? The same question could be asked: "Where are the others?" Were we not all cleansed by Jesus' blood, just as He cleansed all ten lepers? Is there not something wrong with one's heart who does not have time for Jesus. Shouldn't we be grateful to Jesus for what He did for us? Jesus says if we love others more than Him we are not worthy of Him (Matthew 10:37). If we are not worthy of Him, we will be eternally lost. To be pleasing to Jesus so we can go to Heaven when this short life is over, we must "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33). Nothing is as important as pleasing God so we can go to Heaven.