

Luke 17:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

Analysis

Jesus' unusual command: 'And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.' Jesus doesn't touch them, speak healing, or even pronounce them clean. Instead, He commands: 'Go shew yourselves unto the priests' (Πορευθέντες ἐπιδείξατε ἐαυτοὺς τοῖς ἱερεῦσιν, Poreuthentes epideixate heautous tois hierereusin). Levitical law required priests to examine healed lepers and pronounce them clean before restoration to community (Leviticus 14). Jesus' command assumes healing will occur. The miracle happens en route: 'as they went, they were cleansed' (ἐν τῷ ὑπάγειν αὐτοὺς ἐκαθαρίσθησαν, en tō hypagein autous ekatharisthēsan). They were healed in the act of obedience. This teaches that faith must act on Jesus' word before seeing results.

Historical Context

This healing method differs from others where Jesus touched lepers (Matthew 8:3, Mark 1:41) or spoke direct healing. Here, obedience precedes evidence. The ten had to start walking toward priests while still leprous, trusting that healing would occur. This demonstrates faith's essential nature: believing God's word and acting on it before seeing fulfillment. Abraham left Ur not knowing his destination (Hebrews 11:8). Noah built an ark before rain came (Hebrews 11:7). The Israelites marched around Jericho before walls fell (Joshua 6). True faith obeys God's

commands even when outcomes are unclear. The healing's timing—"as they went"—validates their faith-filled obedience.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does healing occurring 'as they went' teach about faith's relationship to obedience?
2. How does this miracle challenge expectations that God must provide evidence before we obey?
3. What commands from God might you need to obey without seeing immediate results, trusting He'll fulfill promises as you obey?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἰδὼν	εἶπεν	αὐτὸὺς	Πορευθέντες	ἐπιδείξατε	
And	when he saw	them he said	unto them	Go	shew	
G2532	G1492	G2036	G846	G4198	G1925	
ἐσαυτὸὺς	τοῖς	ἰερεῦσιν	καὶ	ἐγένετο	ἐν	τῷ
yourselfs	G3588	unto the priests	And	it came to pass	G1722	G3588
G1438		G2409	G2532	G1096		
ὑπάγειν	αὐτὸὺς	ἐκαθαρίσθησαν				
that as they went	unto them	they were cleansed				
G5217	G846	G2511				

Additional Cross-References

Luke 5:14 (Parallel theme): And he charged him to tell no man: but go, and shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing, according as Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

2 Kings 5:14 (Parallel theme): Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

Matthew 3:15 (Parallel theme): And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

John 11:10 (Parallel theme): But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.

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