

Luke 17:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

Analysis

One of ten healed lepers returns: 'And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God' (εἷς δὲ ἐξ αὐτῶν, ἰδὼν ὅτι ἰάθη, ὑπέστρεψεν μετὰ φωνῆς μεγάλης δοξάζων τὸν θεόν). The participle 'idōn' (ἰδὼν, when he saw) indicates recognition of God's work. The verb 'hypostrephō' (ὑπέστρεψεν, turned back) shows deliberate return. His worship is vocal (μετὰ φωνῆς μεγάλης, with loud voice) and God-directed (δοξάζων τὸν θεόν, glorifying God). Verse 16 notes he was a Samaritan—an outsider showed gratitude while nine Jews (insiders) did not. This illustrates that genuine faith transcends ethnic boundaries and that God values grateful hearts.

Historical Context

Leprosy (a term covering various skin diseases) rendered sufferers ritually unclean, requiring isolation (Leviticus 13-14). The law mandated healed lepers show themselves to priests for ceremonial cleansing (Luke 17:14). All ten obeyed Jesus' command to go to the priests, but only one (the Samaritan) returned to thank Jesus first. This pattern mirrors Israel's general response to God—receiving blessings while withholding worship. Jesus' question 'Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?' (v.17) expresses divine disappointment at ingratitude.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does the contrast between one grateful Samaritan and nine ungrateful Jews teach about true faith versus mere religious observance?
2. How might you be like the nine—receiving God's blessings while failing to return in grateful worship?

Interlinear Text

εἷς	δὲ	ἐξ	αὐτῶν	ἰδὼν	ὅτι	ἰάθη	ὑπέστρεψεν
one	And	of	them	when he saw	that	he was healed	turned back
G1520	G1161	G1537	G846	G1492	G3754	G2390	G5290

μετὰ	φωνῆς	μεγάλης	δοξάζων	τὸν	θεόν
and with	voice	a loud	glorified	G3588	God
G3326	G5456	G3173	G1392		G2316

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 9:8 (Glory): But when the multitudes saw it, they marvelled, and glorified God, which had given such power unto men.

John 9:38 (Parallel theme): And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

John 5:14 (Parallel theme): Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.