



**Return To The Master**  
**"Band-aids for Broken Bones"**  
Sermon Small Group Questions  
Speaker: Pastor Tim Bittle

## USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

- This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. After considering the needs of your group, you may choose one of the following options:
  1. one section of questions
  2. one or two questions from each section
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- Personal application is key to everyone's growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, "I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer." It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.

## INTRODUCTION

Jesus died so that we could be in unbroken, whole relationship with Him. Yet, it can be easy to feel distant, when the main points of the message become harder to remember as the week goes on.

Yet, so many people live at a distance. So many people forsake daily intimacy with God for a weekly or bi-weekly "God Fix," but then wonder why God feels so far away! They wonder why they feel so broken.

God didn't give us His only Son so that we can check-in with Him! He did not die so that you could have visitation rights once a week! Visitation rights are the result of broken relationships! God's heart and desire for all of us is that we would have unbroken, uninterrupted intimacy with Him!

## MESSAGE

[Luke 17.11-19]

*Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"*

*When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."*

**God doesn't want to put a band-aid on your problem; He doesn't want to give you a temporary fix to an eternal problem.**

[Hebrews 4.16]

*So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.*

**We have access to Jesus anytime; He's already taken care of the distance!**

### **Background on leprosy (for Luke 17)**

- forced isolation: confined to a colony outside of your town; separated from family
- belief: considered, at the time, a curse from God because of sin
- the process: starts with a spot, which multiplies until the body's pretty covered; hands and feet get completely numb; infection can go unnoticed until a limb literally falls off
- hiding: long sleeves, garments to cover (all the while, disease has set in and the body is wasting away beneath the surface)

The truth is that they (the lepers) didn't just wake up one morning with a fully deteriorated body. It takes some time. Likewise, there are some symptoms to be aware of before any of us end up isolated from community.

**Let's be people who take Jesus at His Word. In the process of obedience to God's leading, He often works even beyond our request or expectation.**

**"sozo" (Greek) = "salvation"**

**When Jesus said, "Go, your faith has made you well" (Luke 17.19), He was addressing more than the issue of healing. Jesus used the leper's response and return as a vehicle for salvation.**

## CONCLUSION

**The miracle is that YOU don't have to live at a distance calling out to Jesus. You don't have to stay afar off hoping that he beckons you. The miracle you are waiting for has already been accomplished! He has already made himself accessible.**

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. Have you ever asked yourself, "How did I get here?" What's the backstory on that? (i.e. getting lost while driving, family issues, emotional hurts)**
- 2. Do you worship harder in a weekend service or at home? What makes the difference for you?**
- 3. When was a time that you experienced isolation from community? On the other hand, when was a time that you knew the nearness of God? Where would you say you are at for both today?**
- 4. What was something that felt just out of reach for you? How did God eliminate the distance and bring breakthrough?**