

Date: 15 August 2010  
Speaker: George Meikle  
Reading: Matthew 8:1-4  
Subject: The Cleansing of the Leper

It is sad to consider the response in verse one and contrast it with the situation today. Many heard the Lord and followed Him. It is the greatest thing possible to know God's salvation, not as a leap in the dark but resting on the Word of God.

Why did multitudes follow?

The Saviour was different from other men although He became like us. The wonder is that God became man.

In Luke 2, angels told the shepherd that a Saviour was born. Here was God's answer to sin.

In John 4, the Samaritans acknowledged that He is the Saviour of the world. There is no other Saviour. He is Saviour Master and Lord. In John 14:6, He said "I am The Way...". There are many ways to Christ, but He is the only way to God and heaven. Many do not want to believe because it suits them to ignore the reality of answering to God, but the Saviour is different. He:-

- Came from heaven
- Was born of the virgin
- Chose poverty
- Never showed any failing (bitterness, revenge, anger, etc)

Paul writes of Him as "our Saviour. This is personal. Unless you acknowledge your need and take Him as your Saviour, you will not be ready for heaven. Many say, "I hope so", but are not willing to accept the Word of God that the only basis for acceptance is because His blood was shed (Heb 9:22).

The Bible is clear, that without Calvary and without Christ, the soul is eternally lost (Eph 2:12). The moment of salvation is precious. It remains with us through our life because He saved, He keeps and He will bring us to heaven. Birth does not save. Britain is not a Christian country, it is only those who have Christ as Saviour Who are Christians. You must be born into the family of God (John 3:7).

The leper is a picture of each of us without Christ. Many followed because of the authority of the word of Christ but the religious people would not accept the blessing that He offered. They wanted to work for salvation, but their efforts will perish (John 6:27). Others because they knew He meant what He said but they did not accept that they could not serve two Masters (Matt 6:24). He loved them, but they did not want Him. The leper realised that he must ask and receive the salvation that He offered. The Lord heard all who asked (Luke 23:43; Luke 18:42, etc). Paul taught the need for repentance (turning from the old life) and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21).

Salvation is still offered tonight. He is able and willing but you must come and ask in repentance