




Social Distancing Is Not a New Idea!


Luke 17:11-19





Observations

- Since COVID 19 has invaded the world, new words have entered our lexicon
 - Words like social distancing, masks, quarantine, self-isolation, PCR antigen testing, and coronavirus antibodies are used by everyone from political leaders to football coaches
 - What's interesting to me is that this is not the first time in the world for social distancing, masks, and quarantining
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“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(mercy) on us!”

Luke 17:11-13

Observations

- Social distancing was practiced to avoid Leprosy
- *“no less than six feet must be kept from a leper; or if the wind came from that direction, a hundred were scarcely sufficient.” Alfred Edersheim, The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah, p.495*
- Why? Leprosy is spread by the respiratory route, nasal discharge, sneezing, and broken skin

Up To Date Journal

What Else Did People Who Had Leprosy Do To Prevent Spreading?

“Anyone with such a defiling disease must wear torn clothes, let their hair be unkempt,” cover the lower part of their face (upper lip, The Msg) and cry out, ‘Unclean! Unclean’ Lev 13:45

“As long as they have the disease they may remain unclean. They must live alone; they must live outside the camp.” Lev. 13:46

- Here we see the wearing of a mask on the face
- Here we see the concept of “Self Quarantine”

Observations

- Biblically, the treatments of COVID and Leprosy have some similarity
- COVID is of viral etiology and Leprosy of bacterial etiology (also known as Hansen's disease)
- The treatments for both diseases have similarities that are preventive and not political

Wearing a mask and keeping your distance helps to prevent both (God has blessed medicinal treatments for both, but they do not take the place of the PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF ALREADY REVEALED COMMON KNOWLEDGE)

Quarantine



“If the shiny spot on the skin is white but does not appear to be more than skin deep and the hair in it has not turned white, the priest is to isolate the affected person for seven days. On the seventh day the priest is to examine them, and if he sees the sore is unchanged and has not spread in the skin, he is to isolate them for another seven days.”

Lev. 13:4-5

Leprosy Was A Lonely Disease

- You could no longer live in your society
- You were totally ostracized from your community (relatives included)
- You were never to get within six feet of another healthy person; You couldn't be visited
- As you walked alone you yelled out, "unclean, unclean" to let people know what you had and to avoid coming near you (It affected the voice box, thus could cause hoarseness)
- It was a disease with no limits (Jew or Samaritan, rich or poor, graduate or gravedigger, civilian or captain)



Observations

- Leprosy caused the loss of feelings
- Lepers could stick their hands in boiling water and not feel it
- Rats along the roadside would gnaw off their fingers as they laid there not knowing what was happening
- They had to wear torn clothes to identify themselves to others
- Imagine ten men in various stages of decay keeping their six-foot distance from Jesus , crying out for Jesus to, “have mercy on us!”

Sin and Leprosy Have Similarities

- Sin, like Leprosy, “levels us all.” Our sins place us on common ground; Romans 3:23; all Lepers faced deadly results; Romans 6:23, so do sinners
- We all come to Jesus in various forms of decay, crying, “*have mercy on us*”
- Sin can be “cute” to begin with, just a spot, a spot that you can cover, or hide for a while (but like Leprosy it spreads)

First a little drink on occasion, a little porno, or an occasional prescription of anti-anxiety meds, or a pain pill

- Then like Leprosy, it deadens the nerves and you can't feel what you are doing to yourself (there is no remorse, for porno or alcohol excess) James 1:13-15 (many drug addicts and alcoholics can't see their wasting away)



The Cure For Leprosy and Sin Have the Same Principles

- Their cure depended on their faith and obedience. *“Go and shew yourselves to the priest.”* Here, Jesus practiced “social distancing”

Jesus didn't do anything specifically to either one, but all got the same prescription (no preferential treatment). We all get the same prescription to get rid of our deadly disease (Acts 2:38, 1John 2:1)

- We seem to give God problems when He doesn't heal/save us, like we think He ought; and thus we continue with the disease (see 2 Kings 5; Captain Naaman, who had Leprosy, felt he was treated unfairly by Elisha because of his position) *“I thought that he would come out to me, wave his hand over the spots.”* (saved without baptism!)
- Elisha practiced “social distancing,” and sent a message to him (dip seven times in muddy water) He didn't tempt God!

There Was an Acceptance That Leprosy Crossed Racial Boundaries

“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.” Verse 15

- The “mixed race leper” was associated with the pure Jewish lepers without any discrimination (they all needed the same blessing and all realized that)
- But when the Jewish lepers were healed, they did not return thanks to the healer!
- Don't forget the healer of nations who hasn't forgotten you; Acts 10:34-35, Ephesians 2:12-13

The Plan Of Salvation

Hear the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Believe the Gospel

Acts 15:7

Repent of Sins

Acts 17:30

Confess Christ

Acts 8:37

Be Baptized

**Acts 2:38,
Acts 8:38**