



# 10 Lepers

ΠΙΩΗΤ ἸΚΑΚΣΕΩΤ

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*In the healing of the ten lepers, our Lord demonstrates His great mercy and compassion toward all men (toward all men, because at least one of the lepers was not a Jew but a Samaritan). Also, this miracle happened in Samaria.*

**T**he 10 lepers, with great faith, lifted their voices to Him saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” (Luke 17:13). Unlike the healing of the leper in chapter 5:12-15 of St. Luke’s Holy Gospel, our Lord simply commanded the 10 lepers to present themselves to the priest. He did not touch them as He had in the prior healing, nor did He speak with them telling them that they would be cleansed. According to the Law, the leper was cast out of society, until his leprosy went away; when he was clean, then he presented himself to the priest and offered sacrifices. The amazing thing is that even before being healed; these 10 lepers heeded the Lord’s command and started on their way to the Temple in Jerusalem to fulfill the Law for those who have already been healed. They simply trusted in His Word; thus, on their way to the Temple, they were cleansed (Luke 17:14). The faith of these men is a great lesson to all of us.

**Similar is the faith of our father Abraham, who**



**The commemoration of the Martyrdom of St. Luke the Evangelist, 22 Babh/1 November**

at a single Word of God, left a comfortable life to move his family to a strange land hundreds of miles away to a life filled with dangers and uncertainty. He did so with full assurance that God would fulfill His promise to him. He again demonstrated his faith when at God’s command, he went to offer his only son Isaac as a sacrifice knowing that it was impossible for God to reject His promise to him. Likewise, these 10 lepers believed in the Lord’s Words to them and went on their way before His promise was fulfilled to them.

**Our Lord also promised us** many things. One example can be found in the Holy Book of Malachi 3:10, where He promises to pour out an overflow of blessings to those who offer their tithes to Him. Everyone I have ever spoken to, who was diligent in offering their tithes

has experienced the fulfillment of this promise. Our Lord’s promises range from taking care of our most basic physical needs (Matthew 6:25-34) to satisfying our highest spiritual needs and desires (John 6:35-40, 53-58). Only, let us not be afraid to TRUST in His promises!

**When the 10 lepers saw that they were healed, only one, the Samaritan, returned to the Lord Jesus Christ to worship Him and give thanks to Him. This event signifies the joy and gratitude with which the Gentiles**



were to receive the Lord Jesus Christ's salvation. See how our Lord did not send the Samaritan back to the priest to fulfill the law's requirement but said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well." (Luke 17:19) This man had already offered his

sacrifice of praise to the Lord in coming back to Him with gratitude to worship Him. Is this not what our Lord desires with all His heart – that we rejoice in Him, that we accept His promises of salvation and eternal life with joy and live our days here in His care, trusting Him, our loving Father?

## 24 Elders, continued from page 39

instrument that was associated Biblically with praising God (II Samuel 6:5, Psalm 33:2). This implies that the main duty of the 24 elders was praising the Lord. A second responsibility is understood from the fact that each of them is carrying golden bowls of incense, which represents the prayers of God's people, thus a second responsibility of these spirit beings is carrying out God's answers to prayers as St. Paul said in (Hebrews 1:14): "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation".

The 24 elders play an important role in our Coptic theology, Divine Liturgy, and iconography. This is due to the fact that they are close to God's throne, praising Him day and night, interceding on behalf of all of us and carrying our prayers that we offer through the holy incense. The role of the 24 elders in the Coptic Church is clearly noticed through the icons that were located in the ancient Coptic Churches and Monasteries. The oldest iconographic representation of the 24 elders is in the apse of the Church of the Monastery of St. Simeon, Aswan (9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> century). Among the better-known icons of the 24 elders are those in the Chapel of St. Benjamin in the Monastery of St. Macarius (11<sup>th</sup> century) and in the Chapel of the 24 in the Monastery of St. Paul the Theban (1710). Our Coptic Church commemorates the 24 elders in the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the blessed month of Hatour. May their intercession be with us all. Amen. ✝

As He healed the 10 lepers of their illness when they came to Him seeking His mercy, He will also heal us of our sins and every spiritual and physical ailment, when we ask Him in faith. Only let us never forget His mercy and kindness. Let us come to Him always with joyful praise and thanksgiving (Psalm 100) and worship Him in spirit and truth (John 4:24). ✝

### Can You Translate These Coptic Titles Within This Mighty Arrows?

1. Χερε νωοϣ ἁμαρτυροϣ
2. Πιπαραδιϣοϣ ἵτε νενηιοϣ εϣοϣαβ
3. Μιλωιχι ἁμαρτυρια ἡχριστιανοϣ
4. Εϣβε ἡχινοβιϣαρϣ
5. Πενιωτ εϣταινοϣτ ἡεπισκοποϣ  
Δββα Ιωχηϣ
6. Πιμητ ἁναϣ ἡαποστολοϣ
7. Πιμητ ἡκακϣεϣτ
8. Πιχοϣτ εϣτοϣ ἡπρεϣβοϣτεροϣ  
ἡἡαποκαλυϣιϣ
9. Πιϣμε ιτ ἁμαρτυροϣ ἡτε  
ϣεβασϣτε
10. Πιμητ ἁναϣ ἡφϣλη ἡπισραηλ
11. Μιραν ἡτε πιϣβε ἡαποστολοϣ
12. Πιφιρι ἡτε Διμωνιοϣ ἡμαρωϣοϣτ
13. Πιϣμε ιτ ἡξελλοι ἡτε Ψιϣητ
14. Πιμητ ἡκακϣεϣτ