

# UNION GROVE THANKSGIVING

## Ten Lepers

Luke 17:11-19

# Thanksgiving in the Bible

- Old Testament
  - ▣ Confessing (or declaring) God's attributes or works
  - ▣ *No one ever says "thank you" to another person!*
- New Testament
  - ▣ Gospels: usually Jesus, to God or in a parable
  - ▣ Only used "person to person" four times
- Overwhelmingly, thanksgiving relates to God

# Mapping the Geography

Jesus' last journey  
to Jerusalem

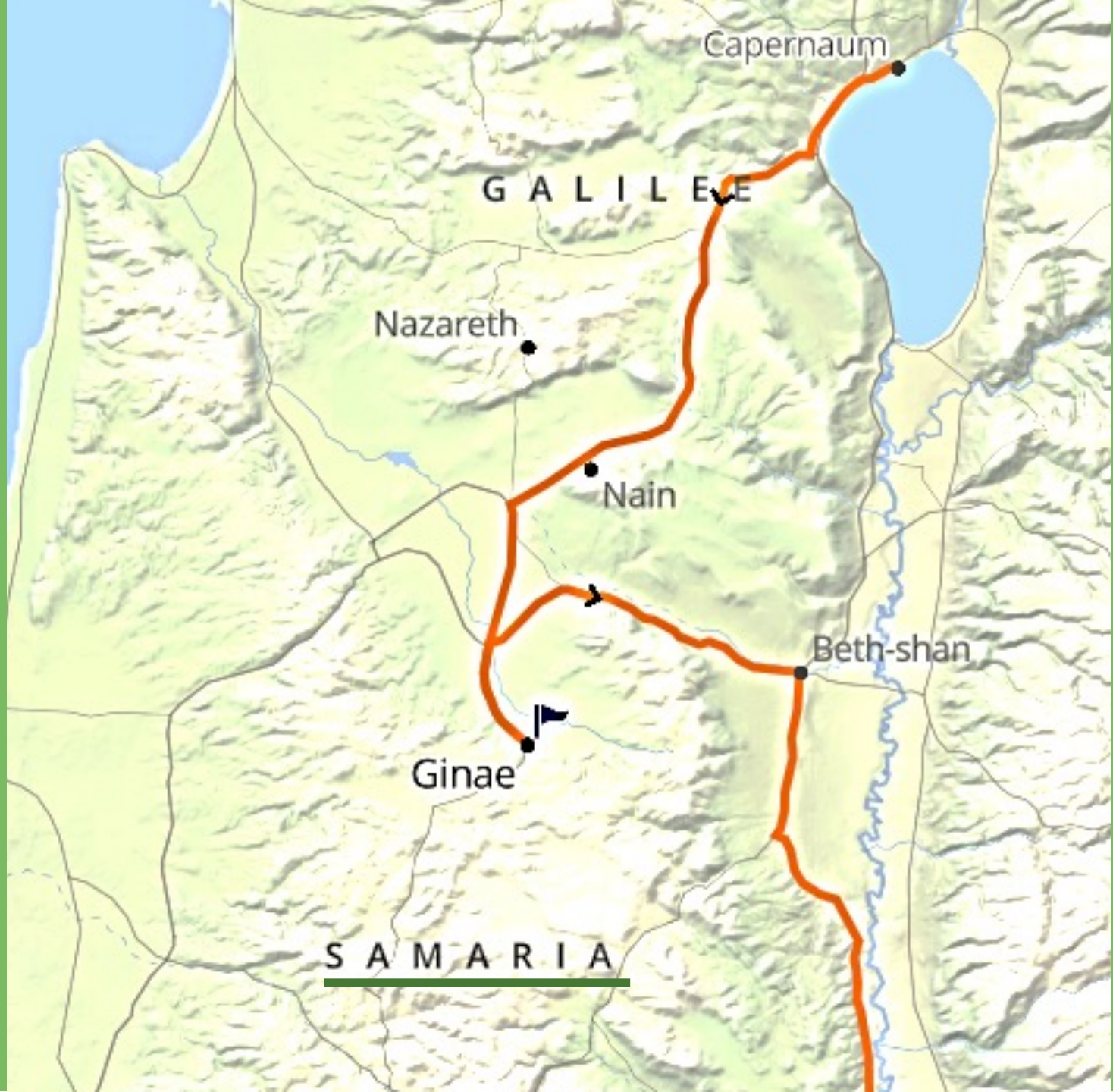
Luke 17:11



# Mapping the Geography

Jesus' last journey  
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Luke 17:11



# The Backstory

## □ Samaritans

- Jews and Samaritans seethed with hatred
- Until Jesus, no one said anything nice about Samaritans
- Had a twisted, rival form of religion
- Centered on the location of the Temple

## □ Leprosy

- Broad term for infectious, disfiguring skin disease
- Generally incurable, short of a miracle
- Worst part: lepers were literally “outcasts” (Lev. 13:46)
- Modern equivalent: perhaps AIDS or Ebola

# A Rare Kind of Miracle

- Account is only found in Luke's gospel
- Very few "group" miracles
- Jesus usually "touches" those he heals
- Only "delayed healing" I'm aware of

## Luke 17:11-19

<sup>11</sup> Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup> As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance <sup>13</sup> and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!” <sup>14</sup> When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

## Luke 17:11-19 (continued)

<sup>15</sup> One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. <sup>16</sup> He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? <sup>18</sup> Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” <sup>19</sup> Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

# What Luke's Listeners Heard

- Plight of the lepers
  - ▣ Sick and wretched
  - ▣ Terribly isolated 17:12*b*
- They know about Jesus 17:13
  - ▣ Greet him by name and title
  - ▣ Ask for pity
- Simplicity of the miracle
  - ▣ Go to the priests 17:14
  - ▣ As they go, they are cleansed

# And One Comes Back

- This leper
  - ▣ Praises God 17:15
  - ▣ Throws himself at Jesus' feet 17:16
  - ▣ Thanks him
- He is a *Samaritan*
- Jesus notes
  - ▣ Nine are missing 17:17
  - ▣ This “foreigner” gives thanks 17:18
  - ▣ Jesus commends him 17:19

# First Tiny Detail

- “Show yourselves to the priests” 17:14
- Rival temples and rival priests
  - ▣ Jewish temple at Jerusalem
  - ▣ *Samaritan* temple at Mt. Gerizim
- Where should the Samaritan leper go?
  - ▣ Not a particular “church”
  - ▣ To Jesus 17:16
- Healing starts at Jesus’ feet

## Second Tiny Detail

- “Then he said to him, ‘Rise and go; your faith has made you well.’” 17:19, NIV’84
- “Made you well:” Gk. Σώζω, *sot’zo*
  - ▣ Can be translated “healed”
  - ▣ Often translated “saved”
  - ▣ Many Bible versions have footnote: “...has saved you” (ESB, NASB, HCSB)
- Every commentator: proper understanding here is “saved”

# The Miracle's Meaning

- God loves lepers
- Giving thanks matters
  - ▣ Sweetens the miracle

“We increase the sweetness of our gifts by thankfulness for them.  
We taste them twice when we ruminate on them in gratitude.”

(Alexander MacLaren)

- ▣ One mark of a believer

# The Big Idea

It's a great thing to be healed of a terrible disease

Ten were

It's a greater thing to go to heaven

One did

# Who Are You in this Story?

- One of the many disciples looking on?
- One of the ten lepers?
- The one who came back?