Jesus TOT

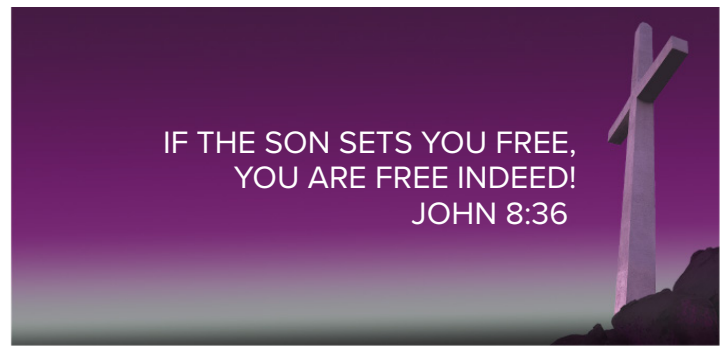## "Grace Thoughts"

A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

"Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine–where are they?" –Luke 17:17

There are certain places in this world where social and ethnic barriers tend to break down and disappear because a greater reality takes over. One of those places is hospitals. Due to my parents' cancer treatments over the years, I have been to several surgery waiting rooms, cancer centers, and emergency rooms, and I realized how we all stand on even ground when it comes to pain and sickness. Somehow, we all become united in our humanity, praying for a positive outcome.

In the time of Jesus, it was leprosy that thus broke down social barriers among the victims of the disease. When Jesus entered a village, ten leprous men stood at a distance (Luke 17:12). The law required lepers to live separately from the rest of society (Leviticus 13:45, 46; Numbers 5:2), The ten men raised their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" (Luke 17:13). Jesus never ignores such a plea. But instead of pronouncing a healing, He told them to show themselves to the priests. "And as they were going, they were cleansed" (verse 14). The healing occurred on their way to show themselves clean. "Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him" (verses 15, 16). Amazing! When he saw that he was healed, the man turned back and did three things: glorified God with a *loud voice*, in Greek *phones megales*, two words that make up our English word "*megaphone*"! Second, he fell at Jesus' feet, in reverence and submission, recognizing the source of his healing. Third, he thanked Jesus. Only then the reader is given a shocking fact: the one who came back was a Samaritan, a foreigner! (verse 16). All ten had been healed, because God is merciful even with the ungrateful (see Luke 6:35, 36). But only this foreigner, who recognized the mercy of Jesus, was not just *healed* but *saved* (Luke 17:19). Being a Samaritan, he probably wouldn't have been allowed into the temple, but the real Temple had come by to heal him! Jesus has broken down barriers. May our lives be a *megaphone*, glorifying, praising, and thanking God for His mercy bestowed upon *all* of us, through Jesus!

Talbot, Elizabeth *Jesus Wins!,* p. 348.