

# Reading Thoughtfully - Exercise 1

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Adapted from "Living by the Book" - Howard Hendricks

**Passage:** Luke 17:11-19

**Time Commitment:** 30-60 Minutes

How would you reply to someone who asked, "If I do exactly as God instructs me, will He be pleased with me?"

Most of us would agree that obedience pleases God, yet a familiar passage of scripture sheds some light on this assumption. You probably know the story of Jesus and the ten lepers. But have you ever read the account thoughtfully?

When you come to the bible, put your thinking cap on. Don't throw your mind into neutral. Apply the same mental discipline that you would to any subject in which you take a vital interest.

**Read Luke 17:11-19** and think about the story for several minutes before answering the following questions.

- What did the Lepers ask Jesus to do? \_\_\_\_\_
- What was the underlying desire behind their request? \_\_\_\_\_
- What did Jesus tell the lepers to do? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many lepers did exactly as He instructed? \_\_\_\_\_
- The Samaritan leper broke ranks and returned to Jesus. Why? \_\_\_\_\_
- Why did Jesus express dismay about the other nine (seemingly obedient) lepers? \_\_\_\_\_

Based on a thoughtful consideration of this story, do you think that God is always pleased with our unquestioned obedience? Why or why not?

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What would you say is a lesson we could learn from this account?

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