

Luke 19.1-11

“Seek and Save the Lost”

GOSPEL is full of SURPRISES – Begins Old Priest and Wife have SON – JOHN

Young VIRGIN Girl has SON who is Son of DAVID – Son of GOD

1st VISITORS invited to see INFANT KING: OUTCAST, Unclean SHEPHERDS

1st SERMON in Hometown – People MARVEL at Words > Then try to KILL Him

DINNER Parties w/ IMPORTANT People – INSULTS them – NOT WASH Right

Aspires to be RELIGIOUS Leader CLOSEST FRIENDS are very IRRELIGIOUS

DEFIES Natural Order – Deaf HEAR – Blind SEE – Lame WALK - DEAD Live

CLOSEST Followers NO CLEAR UNDERSTANDING – Who He is, What’ll Do

18 Chapters of SURPRISES > ONE thing we EXPECT > Jesus **for** UNDERDOG

Sees those UNSEEN – BEGGARS, BLIND, WOMEN, CHILDREN, OUTCASTS

Entered IMPORTANT City of JERICHO – described by Jews as ‘Little Paradise’

City: PALM Trees, ROSE Gardens, Grand WINTER Palace, HIPPODROME

LARGE CROWD filled Streets of Jericho to SEE – Jesus: Man of SURPRISES

Whole PARADE STOPS – Crowd gets SILENT – Jesus stops LOOKS up TREE
that LITTLE BOY said was an EASY ONE to CLIMB

LITTLE BIG MAN – Everyone KNOWS – Everyone PASSIONATELY HATES

NOBODY’S UNDERDOG – Treated Everyone as DOG – Nothing ADMIRABLE

REEKED of ABUSIVE POWER, UNBRIDLED CORRUPTION, DECADENCE

Rotten MAN wanted to SEE JESUS – Surprise!! Jesus wants to SEE HIM!

Jesus: **“Hey HOMEBOY – I’M gonna CHILL in your PAD TONIGHT!”**

SHOCKED CITY – More SILENT – Then MUTTERING, DISGUST Filled Air

Story CENTER Piece of LUKE – SHINY DIAMOND of SURPRISING GRACE

THEME Verse of BOOK – Hangs like BANNER over this Jericho CITY-SCAPE

1. Shameless Sinner

ROMAN TAXES CAUSED MUCH PAIN

a. Abuse v. 2b "CHIEF tax collector" > T.C.'s Despised by the Jews in Palestine

MESSAGE OF JOHN THE BAPTIZER TO TAX COLLECTORS -

"Don't collect any more than you are required to" Luke 3:13

BECAUSE THEY DID! INCREASED their PAY by INCREASING PAIN!

- **Collected money to support oppressive colonial power**

PAID FEE TO ROMANS TO BUY COLLECTION RIGHTS

"CHIEF TAX COLLECTOR" Other collectors under him - **HE TOOK CUT**

"Woe to him who piles up stolen goods and makes himself wealthy by extortion!

Habakkuk 2:6

c) Regular contact with Gentiles, CEREMONIALLY UNCLEAN

TAX COLLECTORS = "sinners" "harlots" and "gentiles"

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM - Zacchaeus UNREACHABLE - Too Bad for God

LUKE > RICH AND POWERFUL has Always meant LOST

b. Affluence v. 2 "he was wealthy" = NO NEED FOR GOD

RICH YOUNG RULER CHOSE MONEY INSTEAD OF CHRIST -

When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth. 18:23

VERSE Rarely quoted by PROSPERITY Teachers: Proverbs 11:4

Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.

While nothing of the private life of Zacchaeus is revealed in the story, this much we know from principle: no one can be privately righteous while participating in and

profiting from a program that robs and crushes other persons. Such dichotomous thinking has been a blight on the church throughout its history, especially in those times and places in which individualism has dominated over community and the sense of being members of one another. Fred Craddock

c. **Arrogance** vs. 3,4 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of crowd So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see

MIDDLE EAST - IMPORTANT PERSON NOT RUN - CLIMB TREES - for Boys
NO Shame - "Who cares what people think about me?" - FLAGRANT

TEMPTATION FOR THE RICH: Command those who are rich in this present world *not to be arrogant* nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God
1 Timothy 6:17

the unrighteous know no shame Zephaniah 3:5
Did Not care PEOPLE'S OPINION > Great DISCIPLE - Become Christ's Fool

2. Seeking Savior

a. Present v. 5 "Z., come down immediately. I must stay at your house today"
WERE there NO PRIESTS, RABBI'S, OR RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE IN JERICHO?

God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Romans 5:8

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

2.11

Jesus in Nazareth: "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." Luke 4.21

Jesus "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." Luke 23.43

TODAY – Salvation PRESENT – NOW – OPPORTUNITY to Repent & Believe

TODAY is the DAY of SALVATION – NOW is the TIME

Zacc. NO TIME TO CLEAN UP HIS HOUSE – No Time to Find NEW JOB

Jesus INVITES TO COME AS WE ARE - NOT to CLEAN UP OUR ACT

UNASKED - JESUS STOPS AND TALKS TO ZACCHAEUS

UNASKED - JESUS OFFERS TO BE THE GUEST IN A SINNER'S HOUSE

UNASKED - JESUS CHANGES HIS SELFISH HEART

b. Perception JERICHO VIEW OF CHIEF T.C.: v. 7 a 'sinner'

Jesus did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man.

John 2:25

VIEW OF JESUS: v. 9 a son of Abraham.

Abraham - IDOL WORSHIPPER BECOMES MAN OF FAITH

Salvation is by Grace - FREE GIFT OF GOD

THERE IS NO PERSON TOO BAD FOR SALVATION

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations Romans 4.18

In every work there must be a beginning, and in spiritual work that beginning may be very small. Do we see a careless brother beginning to use means of grace, which in time past he neglected? Do we see him coming to church and listening to the gospel after a long time away? When we see such things let us remember Zacchaeus and be hopeful. Let us not look coldly on him because at present his motives are very poor and questionable. Let us believe it is far better to hear the gospel out of mere curiosity, than not to hear it at all. J. C. Ryle

Jesus sees TRUE MEANING of Zacc = THE RIGHTEOUS ONE

Jesus stayed away from SIN but always stayed CLOSE to SINNERS

Jesus RESPECTED SINNERS but REJECTED their SIN > STAYS in Home of Z.

What GOES on in THAT House – godless house visited by HOLY GOD

Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart. 1 Sam 16:7

c. Purpose >> Defining Passage of Luke - PRIMARY MISSION

v. 5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. *I must* stay at your house today."

Theme Verse of Luke - 19.10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

vs. 5,10 I must stay at your house today...Today salvation has come to this house

Jesus COMES /SALVATION Comes, KINGDOM of God Comes /KING in House

I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Luke 5:32

Jesus:"How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus replied, "What is impossible with men is possible with God." Luke 18:23-25

It is clear that tax collectors take on the importance they have in the Gospels precisely because they are such striking examples of the surprising grace that constitutes the very essence of Jesus' message. Donald Hagner

DAY OF THE LORD HAS COME - "I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me." Isaiah 65:1

d. Peristroika: Persuasive power of Invisible Kingdom

Jewish Religious LEADERS Simple View of WORLD > Z. is LOST

Jewish Blood but NOT Jewish BEHAVIOR – NOT Good Enough

The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: `God, I thank you that I am not like other men--robbers, evildoers, adulterers--or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' Luke 18.11,12

Z – NOT HUMBLE Tax Collector – CHIEF – HEAD OF TAX MAFIA!

Salvation of Z – Personal, Domestic, Social, Economic, TRANSFORMATIONAL

"Faith that does not purify the heart and life, is not faith at all. Grace that cannot be seen, like light, and tasted like salt, is not grace but hypocrisy. The person who professes to know Christ and trust in him, while clinging to sin and the world, is going down to hell with a lie in his hand. The heart that has really tasted the grace of Christ, will instinctively hate sin." J. C. Ryle

vs. 5-8 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'" But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

SALVATION not **Just** PERSONAL and PRIVATE > Peristroika = Radical Change

True JUSTIFICATION leads to DOING JUSTICE and PREACHING GRACE

If there was any doubt Zacchaeus meant what he said, his pocketbook spoke volumes.

Darrell Bock

RECEIVES Jesus, REPAYS Victims - RESTORES Just Order - RIGHT NOW

GENUINE BELIEF in Jesus > Visible EVIDENCES of Jesus' KINGDOM

BEGINS in HEART of Zacc > EXTENDS to NEWLY OPENED HOME for Jesus

TURNED FROM SELFISHNESS TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

FROM GREED TO GENEROSITY

Was MASTERED by MONEY – Now JESUS is MASTER of his MONEY

Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ...willed that the whole life of believers should be repentance.

Martin Luther, Thesis 1 of 95 Theses, Wittenberg

STOPS the TRAFFIC in CITY of JERICHO

Repentance SHAKES the whole CORRUPT TAXATION STRUCTURE

IMPACTS the COMMERCIAL World of JERICHO

Important Highway – TRADE Center – IMPACTS Entire LOCAL ECONOMY

Story carried throughout ROMAN EMPIRE by Spirit-filled author Dr. LUKE

News shaped EUROPE – AMERICAS – Reading today 2010 in BEIJING

KINGDOM IS NOW and NOT YET > Begins INSIDE – CHANGES EMPIRES

Wycliffe Bible Translators BRAZIL > “JESUS” film into MAMIANDE Language

Many Native Speakers need to FILL ROLES of READERS of Gospel Characters

Ch 19 – Only ONE MAMIANDE Man not spoken yet – WORST Man in Village

Everyone Considered him THIEF – O.K. – ‘You read the part of Zac on Jesus film’

First Takes could not read words Properly – “I STOLE” said “HE STOLE”

Movie Premier – Whole Village – 2 Hours of Jesus – END with Grim CROSS/Res

THIS Mamiande Z. stood with TEARS – Confessing Sin and CLAIMING CHRIST