

Cultivate Gospel of Luke Study
Lesson Thirty-Three

Chapter 19 Verses 1-27

Read and meditate on Luke Chapter 19 Verses 1-27 this week
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class.

In chapter 18, Jesus had an encounter with a rich young ruler. He told his disciples, "24...
*"How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God! 25For it is easier for a
camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of
God!" 26Those who heard Him said, "And so who can be saved?" 27But He said, "The
things that are impossible with people are possible with God."*"

Shortly after this, He had an encounter with another rich man, and the seemingly impossible
thing happened.

Read Luke 19:1-10

It is easy to think of Zaccheus as a "children's Bible story" with a cute Sunday School song. But
there is much we can learn through studying him.

In New Testament times, tax collectors could be very wealthy. They made the majority of their
money by overcharging on the taxes they collected. Anything they collected above what they
had to turn in to the government, was theirs to keep. That is one reason why the people hated
them so much.

Zaccheus was a chief tax collector. He would have been a "go between" or a "middle man"
between the publican tax collectors and Rome. Zaccheus was a Jew and his name means "pure"
or "righteous one".

There are similarities between this man and the apostle Matthew, who was also a Jew and tax
collector. He was known as Levi, before he followed Jesus. It is interesting that Matthew did not
include this encounter with Zaccheus in the gospel that he wrote. It only appears here in Luke.

Zaccheus was so determined to see Jesus that he ran ahead and climbed a tree to see the Lord.

**1. Did you have any obstacles you had to overcome to meet Jesus? Was there anything or
anyone trying to pull you away from coming to faith?**

The fact that he could not see Jesus in the crowd also indicates that Jesus was not a man that was tall or would have stood out from the other people.

This is what Isaiah wrote about the coming Messiah,
Isaiah 53:2, *"1Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 2For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of dry ground; He has no stately form or majesty That we would look at Him, Nor an appearance that we would take pleasure in Him."*

This is not to suggest Jesus was unattractive, but that people would not be drawn to Him because of his physical appearance, but rather His teaching with authority, and the love he showed towards all.

Verse 5, *"And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.""*

Jesus knew Zaccheus by name.

2. Find scripture that tells you God knows you intimately by name.

Like Levi/Matthew, Jesus went to the "sinner's house". Isn't that exactly what He does for each one of us? He meets us in our sinful, self-focused hearts.

Verses 7, *"When the people saw this, they all began to complain, saying, "'He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner!'"*

Ellicott's Commentary states, "It is significant that the murmur was not confined to a special section of rigorous Pharisees, but came from the whole crowd."

It is foolish to have the opinion that someone is less deserving of God's grace, than you are. We all have to come to salvation in the same way.

Verse 8- *"But Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I am giving to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone, I am giving back four times as much."*

Notice that Jesus told the rich young ruler in chapter 18, “22... *“One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.”*” He did not tell Zaccheus he had to do this. Why is that?

3. What was the difference in motives between the rich young ruler and Zaccheus?

“Zaccheus was not saved because he promised to do good works. He was saved because he responded by faith to Christ’s gracious word to him. Having trusted the Savior, he then gave evidence of his faith by promising to make restitution to those he had wronged. Saving faith is more than pious words and devout feelings. It creates a living union with Christ that results in a changed life (James 2:14–26).” -Warren Wiersbe

4. What New Testament verses can you find about our “works”? What stood out to you?

Luke 19:10 *“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*

He came from where? Not just Nazareth or Bethlehem. But from the very presence of His Father in Heaven. This was Jesus’ entire ministry in one sentence. And He is still seeking to save the lost today.

Read Luke 19:11-27

How faithful are you as God's servant?

In verse 11, we learn why Jesus told this parable. The people were traveling to Jerusalem to observe the Passover. They may have assumed that Jesus would save them from the Roman bondage the same way Moses delivered the Israelites from the Egyptian bondage. But, His earthly kingdom would not be in place soon. He would depart and return at some point.

Regarding Verse 12-

David Guzik- "This parable is different than the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. Here, ten servants were each given an equal amount of money, worth about three months of wages for a working man.

i. God distributes some gifts differently, according to His own pleasure; others are universally given to every believer – such as the gospel, which is given to each Christian in equal measure."

The nobleman in the parable entrusted some of his money, in equal amounts, to his servants. The disciples, and subsequently all believers, have been equally entrusted with the Gospel message.

5. What verses can you find about being "entrusted" with the Gospel?

6. According to this parable, what can we assume the Lord expects us to do with the Gospel that He freely gave to us?

Luke 19:15-19 Why were these two servants rewarded?

Verse 20-24 Why was the nobleman angry with the third servant?

Gill's Exposition of the Bible explains it this way,

"For I feared thee,.... Not with a right fear, with a fear of his goodness, who had bestowed such an excellent gift on him; for this would have taught him to have departed from evil, and have put him on doing his master's will, and making use of his gift to his glory: his fear was not of the right kind, and was ill grounded, as appears by what follows"

The third servant had the wrong understanding of his master. In the same way, there are many who have a wrong understanding of God. He was not a cruel, harsh master, because the first two servants gladly worked to increase what they were given in order to bless their master.

Scripture clearly tells us that we are servants of the Lord.

7. Read Joshua 24:14, Colossians 3:23,24, Romans 12:11, John 12:26, Revelation 1;1. What stands out?

Believers will have a judgment when we stand before the Lord based on how we served Him.

2Corinthians 5:9,10, *"Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. 10For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds done through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad."*

Note that the “lazy” servant was not destroyed like the enemies of the nobleman were. He just lost out on any reward, for not fully serving his master or looking out for his interests.

Verse 27, *“But as for these enemies of mine who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them in my presence.”*

This can be a difficult truth to understand.

Jesus was about to enter Jerusalem where He will be rejected by many of the travelers that heard this message. It must have grieved Him to know that many would not choose to serve Him.

8. How would you answer someone who rejects God because, “A loving God would never send people to Hell?”

What scripture would use to explain God is a loving, righteous and just judge?

Revelation 11:18, *“And the nations were enraged, and Your wrath came, and the time came for the dead to be judged, and the time to reward Your bond-servants the prophets and the saints and those who fear Your name, the small and the great, and to destroy those who destroy the earth.”*

Warren Wiersbe- “We are living today in the period between Luke 19:14 and 15 when our Master is absent but will return according to His promise. We have been given a task to perform, and we must be faithful until He comes.”

Read Luke 19:28-40

9. Compare Luke 19:30 and Matthew 21:2. Is there a difference?

Read Zechariah 9:9. This prophesy was fulfilled.

David Guzik “Jesus rode this relatively humble animal into Jerusalem. Instead of coming on a horse as a conquering general, He came on a **colt**, as was customary for royalty. He came to Jerusalem as the Prince of Peace... The crowd’s praise made Jesus’ enemies uncomfortable; it made them object to the praise being offered. It made them know they were being defeated. John 12:19 says that on this day, *The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, “You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!”*

i. Nothing tells Satan and his followers that they have lost like the praises of God ringing in their ears. Satan loses because when God’s people are really worshipping, their hearts and minds are on Him – and not on sin, self, or Satan’s distractions.”

10. How do you keep from getting distracted during music worship? Do you feel fully connected to God when you are praising Him?

Early on in His ministry, Jesus often told people to keep quiet about the miracles they witnessed. Now, it is finally time for the people to fully and freely worship Him as the Messiah that He is. Of course, the religious leaders were angered by this and tried to have it stopped. But, Jesus was near to completing His purpose in coming.

Read Luke 19:41-48

As we end chapter 19, we see Jesus displaying both sorrow and rage. Sorrow of what He knows will become of Jerusalem a short time after He is crucified. And righteous rage at the unholy trade that was happening in His Father's House. He shows both loving compassion and a fierce, but Holy, judgment.

What would Jesus think of the modern church?

We can read about it in Revelation Chapters 2 and 3. These were actual churches but we can also look at the church today and see similarities.

11. Looking at the letters to the churches in Revelation Chapters 2 and 3, prayerfully evaluate your own walk with the Lord. Are there changes the Lord wants you to make?

The church is not the building, the church is God's people.