AGGRESSIVE FAITH
LUKE 18:35–19:27
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Introduction:

Luke 18:35–39)

35) Jericho: Jesus is nearing the last leg of his journey to Jerusalem.

Mark: His name is Bartimaeus; but Luke doesn't name him=nobody

36-39) Two themes being emphasized by repetition:

-Jesus is the Son of David: a Messianic title

-The blindman's persistence (like the widow at the beginning of chapter 18)

He doesn't care what they think; he doesn't bend to public pressure.

Luke 18:40–43)

Even with the cross looming before him, Jesus cares and has time for compassion.

This section illustrates many lessons:

-Who Jesus is: He is the Son of David/Messiah.

-What JC is like: He continues to serve even as he faces the cross.

-Aggressive faith

Rachel Scott: "Now that I have begun to walk my talk, they make fun of me. I don't even know what I have done. I don't even have to say anything, and they turn me away. I have no more personal friends at school. But you know what, it's all worth it."

Luke 19:1–4)

Luke ties this section with the last:

- Jericho
- Neither the blind man nor Zacchaeus can see.
- Both are nobodies, rejected by the crowd.
- Jesus cares about those the crowd rejects.
- Both the blind man and Zacchaeus have persistent/aggressive faith.

Luke 19:5–7)

Luke 19:8–10) Aggressive faith: He completely changes the way he handles money: from taking advantage of people to serving them.

This section illustrates many lessons:

- Jesus takes the initiative to save lost people. (We need to respond.)

- Genuine repentance: Salvation comes with demands that affect our pocketbook.

- Like the blind man, Zacchaeus has aggressive faith.

Luke 19:11–14)

God's kingdom comes in two stages: inaugurated but not yet consummated.

The parable shows our responsibility in the interim period between the two comings.

A mina is about 3–4 months wages for a laborer.

Luke 19:15–19)

Luke 19:20-21)

The king's response to other two servants shows this negative evaluation to be questionable.

Luke 19:22-26)

Luke 19:27) Jesus presently offers forgiveness, but when he returns, there will be judgment.

Faithfulness will be rewarded, but unfaithfulness will be judged.

Conclusion: These three sections of Luke illustrate for us how to live in God's Kingdom. We should have aggressive/persistent faith that propels us to action.

1 Corinthians 9:24–27

"Must I be carried to the skies
On flow'ry beds of ease,
While others fought to win the prize,
And sailed through bloody seas?"

(Isaac Watts, 1721)

How can we use the resources God has given us to make 1,000% profit for the Kingdom of God?

Ps 116:12

Questions for Meditation or Discussion

1. What are some of the insights/teachings in Luke 18:35–19:27 that God used in your heart?

2. The blind man, Zacchaeus, and Jesus did not seem to care a whole lot about what others thought of them. Why do we care so much?

3. In Luke 19:10, Jesus claims that "the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." What could you do to get more involved in Jesus' ministry of reaching lost people?

4. How can you use the resources God has given you to make 1,000% profit for the Kingdom of God?

5. Read and discuss 1 Corinthians 9:24–27.

6. In what ways are your children or grandchildren or friends seeing you sacrifice for your faith because it is so valuable to you and not an optional add-on?

7. Read Psalm 116:12 and answer the question.