

Joyful Exchange

Luke 18:35-19:10

Ezekiel 34:12, 16 As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. **16** I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

Am I known?	God seeks.
Does anyone care?	God saves.

18:38, Have mercy on me!
39, The crowd told him to be silent.
42, Recover your sight; your faith has made you well.

Luke tells us of a man who is lost in blindness and poverty.
Jesus brings wholeness.

And now Luke tells us of a man lost in wealth and corruption.
What will Jesus do?

Important information leading up to this narrative.

Luke 7:34 The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'

Luke 5:30 And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

Contrasted with...

Luke 18:23, 25 But when he heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich. **24** Jesus, seeing that he had become sad, said, "How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! **25** For 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."

Discovering the Details

- Chief tax collector
- Wealth poses a danger to discipleship
- Zacchaeus is intrigued (curious), I want to see him.
- The crowd is an obstacle.

Concerning the blind man, the crowd yelled at him to be quiet.
For Zacchaeus the crowd pushed him away from Jesus to the back (social outcast).

Small in stature - This detail is true revealing Zacchaeus' size, but it is also an image of the attitude toward him. He was viewed by the crowd as small, insignificant, not worth an opportunity, a nobody.

Question: Who or what might be getting in the way for you to encounter Jesus? Have I become a religious obstacle? Who have I pushed to the back? How will I respond to the kingdom approaching?

Jesus notices!
Jesus knows.
Jesus demonstrates the commission that he gave to the 70.

Luke 10:2-8 And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. **3** Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. **4** Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. **5** Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' **6** And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to

you. **7** And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. **8** Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you.

vs. 5, I must stay at your house today. (Peace) The kingdom of God has made its approach.

- Zacchaeus accepts the peace of Jesus.
- The peace is received with great joy!
- Staying the night - a sign of fellowship and of forgiveness.
- The crowd's attitude - because he is fellowshiping he is participating in his sin.

vs. 7, The crowd sits in judgement.

The crowd will always have an attitude, but it doesn't have to affect yours.

- Jesus is doing something that I religiously disagree with.
- The paradigm of the religious has been disrupted.

Paradigm - a framework containing the basic assumptions, ways of thinking, and methodology that are commonly accepted by members of a community.

5:30 And the Pharisees and their scribes grumbled at his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

15:2 And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

Question: What paradigms in your life need healthy disruption?

Second Mile exists to radically amplify Jesus through cultural engagement.

We are growing to be a people who will overflow with the love and grace of Jesus reaching the next generation.

Lingering between verse 7 and verse 8.

I was curious and so from a distance I wanted to see Jesus, but Jesus saw me!

We aren't talking about years, months, or days.

We are talking about in a moment of a few hours everything changes.

Question: What needs to happen in your life in the moment of the kingdom approaching? What needs to happen as you encounter Jesus? What action will be the immediate result?

Today come down!

Jesus has taken the scorn, shame, and anger that has been piled on the tax collector (the sinner) onto himself.

Jesus has become the substitute.

Forgiveness and salvation have been made available to the outcast (the sinner) through the mission of Jesus completed on the cross.

Good news of great joy whether poor or rich, oppressed or the one who was the oppressor.

Grace is a scandal because it insists on including those whom we wish to exclude.

Zacchaeus is completely transformed. His actions and attitudes change immediately.

vs. 8,

- Half of what I have I give to the poor.
- If I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.

Generous and radical restitution. He immediately moves to put right the injustices of his previous professional life.

Compared to the rich young ruler... What will I do with my money?

Radical transformation -> Jesus wants everything.

As the kingdom moves Jesus does not confirm religious exclusions, he seeks and saves the lost.

He rescues the scattered sheep. (Psalm 23)

vs. 9, Zacchaeus is a son of Abraham, the lost sheep of Israel.

Question: Are you in posture of gratefulness because you have been rescued?
Will you welcome Jesus to dine with you, impact your life, and change you forever?