

# Luke 19:1-27

## A New Perspective

Image Church // Inverted Kingdom Vol. 2 / Radical Week 5

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### Introduction

Well, good morning Image Family I hope you're doing well!

***If you have your bible, go ahead and grab it and turn to Luke 19...***

We're continuing our journey with Jesus, and in **chapter 18**, we've seen this theme of ***dependant faith*** that Jesus keeps pointing us to...

And Jesus uses those who seem to be the least likely to drive home this reality- so we would see that ***it's not about who you are. It's about who you trust in...***

- And that strength isn't found in your *social status or moral standing*. It's found through faith...

And here's the thing about the kind of faith that Jesus points us to, it changes everything... ***It's not just something that we declare, it's something that gives us a new perspective on life and shapes how we live...***

And that's exactly what we're going to see today...

### Luke 19:1-27

**1** He entered Jericho and was passing through. **2** There was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.

Here's what you need to see about this guy **Zacchaeus**. He was the ***kingpin of the Jericho tax cartel...***

**Rome** had taken over the city of **Jericho**, and what they did was employ locals to be the ones that collect the taxes because they knew the city so well.

***And Rome would say*** to the local Tax Collectors: *Here's how much we want you to collect, and then anything else you want to take is yours to keep.*

So, these local *Tax Collectors* would go around and take tons of money from their people- and Rome backed them, so the people had to give up whatever was asked of them... **So beat up...**

And here's the thing, **Zacchaeus** wasn't just ***one*** of the local Tax Collectors; he was a ***Chief Tax Collector...***

- So, this is one *shady and greedy* dude, and he had taken so *much* excess money that he was filthy ***rich!***

Well, he hears that **Jesus** is coming into town, and so **Zacchaeus** is interested, so he goes to check it all out...

**Verse 3** He was trying to see who Jesus was, but he was not able because of the crowd, since he was a short man. **4** So running ahead, he climbed up a sycamore tree to see Jesus, since he was about to pass that way.

I want to stop right here for a second so that we can see something interesting... **Why** did Zacchaeus ***have*** to climb a sycamore tree?? It's easy to think, well, he did it because he was ***a wee little man...***

Yeah, but think about this, typically, if you have someone who's short and they're in a crowd, they normally get let through so that they can see- no big deal, right?? Why didn't that happen for **Zacchaeus**??

Because the people hated him, he was a scumbag who stole from them... We'll see more evidence of that in **verse 7...**

Zacchaeus was **kept** from being able to come to Jesus because the people hated him for who he was and what he had done... They **despised** him, so they **rejected** him from being able to get to Jesus...

See, they saw the sin in Zacchaeus' life, but they didn't see the sin in their own life...

One of the biggest obstacles within the church that keeps someone from coming to Jesus is **self-righteous people** who look down on the sin of others while failing to see their own...<sup>1</sup>

Listen, there's one label that we all wear, and that's **sinner**... it's the one thing that we all have in common... So for those of you that have been burnt by self-righteous people, you're not alone. It happened to Zacchaeus too...

But watch what happens next... **Verse 5:**

**5** When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down because today it is necessary for me to stay at your house." **6** So he quickly came down and welcomed him joyfully.

I want you to notice something here... Jesus says: **it is necessary for me to stay at your house.**"

- I want to talk about the word **stay**...

That word **stay** literally means to *lodge or reside*... *This isn't just a meal or a quick hangout*... *Jesus took up room and board at his house*...

Back then, when you stayed with somebody, it was an **intimate** thing. It meant that you **accepted** them.<sup>2</sup>

Meanwhile, look at the response from everyone else, **verse 7:**

**7** All who saw it began to complain, "He's gone to stay with a sinful man."

The crowd is offended by who Jesus chooses to loge with... They couldn't believe that he would stay with someone like this...

And yet this is exactly **who Jesus came for**... The guy that everyone else rejected was the very one that Jesus wanted a relationship with...

- Again, we see the unlikely being engaged by Jesus...

Jesus is always calling near the people that others push away... The person labeled a **sinner** is the person Jesus wanted to spend time with!

**BTW:** What a beautiful picture of the **gospel** here... See, **religion** says you have to clean yourself up before you come to God, but the **gospel** says Jesus comes to you as you are...

Jesus is going to make this clear in **verse 9:** **Today salvation has come to this house**...

Here's what I want you to see, **in Zacchaeus' story we see a glimpse of God's redemptive story**... And why Jesus came to earth...

See, **like Zacchaeus**, we are sinful and wicked, we are greedy and we love money and what money offers us more than we love God... We've turned our backs on God to run after the pleasures of this world...

But the hope of the gospel is that even in the midst of our sin, Jesus offers us salvation and hope. **In His life Jesus was perfect where we weren't, and in His death, He received the punishment that we deserved.**

**Zacchaeus** had to *climb a tree* so that he could see Jesus because he was a **sinner** who was **despised** and **rejected**... But **Jesus** would be

<sup>1</sup> Tim Keller: The Issue of Money; Luke 19:1-10

<sup>2</sup> Thought from Tim Keller: The Issue of Money; Luke 19:1-10

hung on a tree being *despised* and *rejected* because of our sin so that **God could look on us!**

Do you see it?!? Jesus told Zacchaeus to get out of the tree so that he could hang on it... **Jesus would trade places with Zacchaeus...**

That's the message of the gospel... **Jesus in our place!**

- **2 Corinthians 5:21 says:** He made the one who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Zacchaeus encountered the incredible, intentional love of Jesus when he didn't deserve it...

- Do you see that? Have you received that??

Because here's the thing, when you do, it changes everything!

That's what we see with Zacchaeus... *Look at verse 8:*

**8** But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, I'll give half of my possessions to the poor, Lord. And if I have extorted anything from anyone, I'll pay back four times as much."

What we see is that faith in Jesus changes Zacchaeus' perspective...

**When Jesus changed his heart, it caused him to open up his hands...**

The guy who once idolized money is now giving it away... He pays back everyone four times what he owes them... and on top of that, he gives away half of his possessions...

Here's the crazy part, Jesus **never tells** Zacchaeus to give anything away... Zacchaeus just responds to the grace that he had encountered... and he did it with excitement, **Look Lord!!**

**We see a restorative response as a result of his restoration!**

- Faith in Jesus changes Zacchaeus' perspective...

Zacchaeus saw that he had the greatest treasure, so he could let go of the things he once saw as treasure...

**Is that true for you?** Do you see Jesus as the greatest treasure? ... For those whose answer is yes, do your hands reflect that?

**Maybe ask it like this:** *has your encounter with Jesus changed the way that you live and give? Are you open-handed with things that you used to be close-handed on?*

<sup>3</sup>**Illustration:** In the early 1900's there was a man named João (*joe-ou*), who was a prominent businessman that ran the human-resources department of an insurance company in Rio de Janeiro... he was stern and serious, prone to squirreling money away. But around the age of 49, he suffered a health crisis...

- He left his job and began selling french fries from a street cart. The fries quickly proved popular...
- João often served them up for free. All you had to do was ask, and he'd scoop some into a box no charge. What money he did take in, he frequently gave away to children begging in the street or used to buy them sweets. Day after day, he came home to his wife and son without a single real in his pocket...
- Eventually, his family berated him, and the cart went out of business, and he was reduced to living on his mother's pension, João refused to stop. Giving simply made him too happy...

This man had experienced a new shot at life, and it changed everything... He went from being closed-handed to open-handed...

This is what we see with **Zacchaeus...**

Is that true of us?? Are we *open-handed with things that you used to be close-handed on?*

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<sup>3</sup>The Atlantic,  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/05/the-man-who-couldnt-stop-giving/389531/>

***Faith in Jesus changes your perspective and shapes how you live...***

Look at what Jesus says next... **verse 9:**

**9** "Today salvation has come to this house," Jesus told him, "because he too is a son of Abraham. **10** For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost."

Now we see why it was **necessary** for Jesus to go to Zacchaeus' house...

And in this not only do we get why it was **necessary** for Jesus to go to Zacchaeus' house, but we get the purpose statement for why it was necessary for Jesus to come to earth...

- His purpose, His mission is to seek and save the lost... What happens here is a tangible expression of that...

**Luke 19:10** is the first verse that my daughter ever memorized... It is so simple and yet so profound... Has served as a bridge to share the gospel with her... (she's not a Christian)

- Our goal is to put the Word in her mouth and pray God takes it to her heart...

***And here's the thing I don't want you to miss...*** This is not just the purpose statement for Jesus, it's also a reminder of His call for us...

Part of this perspective shift that comes through faith, is understanding the implications of the salvation that you have received...

***When you receive the message of Jesus, you become part of the mission of Jesus,*** this was His plan that He laid out in Matt. 28:19-20...

I think this is one of the biggest misses in our culture- faith is very personal, just about me and Jesus...

But Jesus says the opposite... In fact, In **Luke 9:23**, Jesus made this very clear when He said: **If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me.**

Denying yourself and taking up your cross means that life is no longer about you and your agenda, it's about Jesus and His agenda...

When a lost person is found, and they know that other people are still out there lost, they head back out with the rest of the rescue team to find them...

- No matter the cost, no matter how hard it may be...

See, ***Found people find people***...

This is the call of the Christian life... And it happens by reorienting our lives around the message and ministry of Jesus...

- We have to get this before Jesus goes into what He's about to say next...

Jesus is going to drive this home for us here in this next...

Look at **verse 11:**

**11** As they were listening to this, he went on to tell a parable because he was near Jerusalem, and they thought the kingdom of God was going to appear right away.

Jesus is about to tell a parable here, and in this parable, Jesus is the nobleman- the master in this parable...

**12** Therefore he said, "A nobleman traveled to a far country to receive for himself authority to be king and then to return. **13** He called ten of his servants, gave them ten minas, and told them, 'Engage in business until I come back.'

The master entrusts his servants with what?? **His money** that he **gave them**... He gives all of them 10 minas... A mina is a silver coin equal to 100 days wages... (totals to 1000 days wages)

And he tells them, engage in business until I come back...

- **IOW**: be about the things I am about by engaging in business in a way that brings a return for me...

**14** "But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We don't want this man to rule over us.'

This is a picture that represents all of the Jews and the way that they treat Jesus in light of who He is and what He came to do...

**15** "At his return, having received the authority to be king,

Now, this is a picture of Jesus' second coming... When He brings His Kingdom...

he summoned those servants he had given the money to, so that he could find out how much they had made in business.

Don't miss the **expectation** here... The servants were expected to engage in business in a way that brings a return...

**16** The first came forward and said, 'Master, your mina has earned ten more minas.'

**17** " 'Well done, good servant!' he told him. 'Because you have been faithful in a very small matter, have authority over ten towns.'

**18** "The second came and said, 'Master, your mina has made five minas.'

**19** "So he said to him, 'You will be over five towns.'

So the **first 2 guys** do exactly what they were asked to do... They were faithful with what they had been given to steward, so they were given more...

**Verse 20**: "And another came and said, 'Master, here is your mina. I have kept it safe in a cloth **21** because I was afraid of you since you're a harsh man: you collect what you didn't deposit and reap what you didn't sow.' **22** "He told him, 'I will condemn you by what you have said, you evil servant! If you knew I was a harsh man, collecting what I didn't deposit and reaping what I didn't sow, **23** why, then, didn't you put my money in the bank? And when I returned, I would have collected it with interest.'

Now, this **last guy** failed to leverage what the master had given him, and he's condemned for it...

Here's the thing, he **wasn't** condemned for what he **had** done, but what he **didn't do with what was given to him**... He **did not leverage** what the master had given him...

**Why** didn't he leverage what the master gave him?? Because he didn't really know the master... We see that in his response, he viewed the master as harsh and unjust...

If he really knew the master, then he would have done the same thing the other servants did and leveraged what had been given to him... But instead, he did the opposite...

**Verse 24**:

**24** So he said to those standing there, 'Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.'

**25** "But they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas.'

**26** " 'I tell you, that to everyone who has, more will be given; and from the one who does not have, even what he does have will be taken away. **27** But bring here these enemies of mine, who did not want me to rule over them, and slaughter them in my presence.' "

*This parable makes explicit that citizens of God's kingdom are responsible to work toward God's goals and purposes.<sup>4</sup>*

For those who **leverage** their lives for Jesus, more will be given, that is, you will receive the Kingdom and ALL that comes with it...

- But for those that don't **leverage** their lives for Jesus, even what they had in this life will be taken from them...

See, this parable is a picture of the call on our lives, but even more, it also serves as a **litmus test** for where our hearts are and the implications that come from it...

<sup>4</sup> Theologyofwork.org.,  
<https://www.theologyofwork.org/new-testament/luke/power-and-leadership/risk-the-parable-of-the-ten-minas-luke-1911-27>

***Listen, here's what I need you to see...***

How you leverage your life is a direct reflection of where your heart is, and where your heart is, determines your standing before God that shapes where you will spend eternity...

**The question is, has your faith actually changed your perspective on this life?**

What we saw with **Zacchaeus** was a legit, obvious perspective shift... It changed everything for him...

- He was open-handed in places he used to be closed handed... And he did it with joy and excitement...

And the ***two servants' that leveraged what the master had given them...***

- Their perspective shifted on their purpose... because they knew the master and they understood the implications of what was given and what had been asked of them...

Has Jesus changed your perspective on this life? Is He shaping the way that you live??

- Is your life leveraged for Jesus and His glory??
- Like is it really???

One of the areas to peek at: **Jesus was about seeking and saving the lost...** *Are you about that??*

Here's what it's all about... Open hands and open life for the sake of Jesus...

Where are the gaps??

If you look the same as you did, or the same as the rest of the world, then there is a problem...

## Conclusion [VAMP]

***Faith in Jesus gives us a new perspective on life and shapes how we live...*** It makes us open-handed in the places we used to be closed-handed...

For some of you, you need to open your heart to Jesus...

For others of you, you need to ask the question are you living an open-handed life as it relates to the mission of Jesus?

Is Jesus your true treasure because when He is, it changes everything...