

CHAPTER 19

TODAY SALVATION HAS COME TO THIS HOUSE



In chapter 19 Jesus reaches the destination of his journey. He enters Jerusalem. The chapter opens with Jesus entering the house of a sinner. Salvation is offered and accepted enthusiastically by Zacchaeus, the tax collector. The chapter closes with Jesus entering God’s House, the Temple of Jerusalem. There, salvation is offered and rejected by the religious authority.

DAY ONE: Zacchaeus the Tax Collector. (Read Lk. 19: 1-10).

19:1 Jesus ¹ entered Jericho ² and was passing through it. **19:2** Now ³ a man named Zacchaeus was there; he was a chief tax collector ⁴ and was rich. **19:3** He ⁵ was trying to get a look at Jesus, ⁶ but being a short man he could not see over the crowd. ⁷ **19:4** So ⁸ he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree ⁹ to see him, because Jesus ¹⁰ was going to pass that way. **19:5** And when Jesus came to that place, he looked up ¹¹ and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, ¹² because I must ¹³ stay at your house today.” ¹⁴ **19:6** So he came down quickly ¹⁵ and welcomed Jesus ¹⁶ joyfully. ¹⁷ **19:7** And when the people ¹⁸ saw it, they all complained, ¹⁹ “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” ²⁰ **19:8** But Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, half of my possessions I now give ²¹ to the poor, and if ²² I have cheated anyone of anything, I am paying back four times as much!” **19:9** Then ²³ Jesus said to him, “Today salvation ²⁴ has come to this household, ²⁵ because he too is a son of Abraham! ²⁶ **19:10** For the Son of Man came ²⁷ to seek and to save the lost.”

1. Have you ever had a guest in your house that deeply impacted your life? Tell the story.

2. How does Zacchaeus demonstrate true repentance?

Zacchaeus, hurry down! I



need to stay at your house

Jesus passes through one final town before arriving at Jerusalem. When Jesus enters Jericho an enthusiastic crowd follows him. In that crowd in one short, rich and despised tax collector, Zacchaeus. He eagerly tried to see what Jesus was like. Being short, and probably for his own safety because he was despised, he climbed a sycamore tree. It was Jesus who saw and calls out to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry down. I mean to stay at your house today.”

As a result of their encounter, Jesus receives hospitality from Zacchaeus who demonstrates his faith in Jesus by showing great generosity. Jesus announces that “today” salvation has come to Zacchaeus and all in his

household.

The encounter highlights “who can be saved?” Conversion is the door to salvation. One who receives Jesus, repents and demonstrates conversion enters salvation. Jesus’ success among sinners is a major characteristic in Luke’s Gospel. Salvation is offered to all; Jews or Gentiles, rich or poor, Pharisees or tax collectors.

The response of Zacchaeus can be contrasted with that of the rich man in Chapter 18. The rich man did not see his need to repent. He would not share his wealth with the poor. He would not change his life to follow Jesus. The rich man went away sad. Zacchaeus recognizes he is a sinner and repents. He demonstrates true conversion by generously sharing his wealth with the poor. He pledges half his belongings to the poor. He welcomes Jesus into his house. And he is filled with joy. He is proclaimed by Jesus to be a true son of Abraham, the father of faith. Through the encounter with Jesus Zacchaeus’ life is changed forever. God has visited and found a home with Zacchaeus, the tax collector

Jesus once again demonstrates his mission of God’s mercy, ” The son of man has come to search out and save what was lost.”

DAY TWO: Parable of the 10 gold coins. Investing in the Kingdom. (Read Lk. 19:11-27)

19:11 While the people were listening to these things, Jesus ²⁸ proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, ²⁹ and because they thought ³⁰ that the kingdom of God ³¹ was going to ³² appear immediately. **19:12** Therefore he said, “A nobleman ³³ went to a distant country to receive ³⁴ for himself a kingdom and then return. ³⁵ **19:13** And he summoned ten of his slaves, ³⁶ gave them ten minas, ³⁷ and said to them, ‘Do business with these until I come back.’ **19:14** But his citizens ³⁸ hated ³⁹ him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man ⁴⁰ to be king ⁴¹ over us!’ **19:15** When ⁴² he returned after receiving the kingdom, he summoned ⁴³ these slaves to whom he had given the money. He wanted ⁴⁴ to know how much they had earned ⁴⁵ by trading. **19:16** So ⁴⁶ the first one came before him and said, ‘Sir, ⁴⁷ your mina ⁴⁸ has made ten minas more.’ **19:17** And the king ⁴⁹ said to him, ‘Well done, good slave! Because you have been faithful ⁵⁰ in a very small matter, you will have authority ⁵¹ over ten cities.’ **19:18** Then ⁵² the second one came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has made five minas.’ **19:19** So ⁵³ the king ⁵⁴ said to him, ‘And you are to be over five cities.’ **19:20** Then another ⁵⁵ slave ⁵⁶ came and said, ‘Sir, here is ⁵⁷ your mina that I put away for safekeeping ⁵⁸ in a piece of cloth. ⁵⁹ **19:21** For I was afraid of you, because you are a severe ⁶⁰ man. You withdraw ⁶¹ what you did not deposit ⁶² and reap what you did not sow.’ **19:22** The king ⁶³ said to him, ‘I will judge you by your own words, ⁶⁴ you wicked slave! ⁶⁵ So you knew, did you, that I was a severe ⁶⁶ man, withdrawing what I didn’t deposit and reaping what I didn’t sow? **19:23** Why then didn’t you put ⁶⁷ my money in the bank, ⁶⁸ so that when I returned I could have collected it with interest?’ **19:24** And he said to his attendants, ⁶⁹ ‘Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has ten.’ ⁷⁰ **19:25** But ⁷¹ they said to him, ‘Sir, he has ten minas already!’ ⁷² **19:26** ‘I tell you that everyone who has will be given more, ⁷³ but from the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. ⁷⁴ **19:27** But as for these enemies of mine who did not want me to be their king, ⁷⁵ bring them here and slaughter ⁷⁶ them ⁷⁷ in front of me!’



1. What is perplexing or surprising to you in this parable?

2. What has the Lord given to you that you have invested well?

3. What might you have buried that the lord is calling you to use now?

A first hearing of the parable is probably perplexing. Who is this king who would slaughter those who rejected him? Could Jesus be speaking of himself? Jesus' parables surprise and cause his listeners to look differently at a situation.

Jesus is approaching Jerusalem. Many who follow him are still confused about what is to happen there. They might have expected a spectacular event to start the reign of God. Jesus has been instructing His disciples all along the journey to Jerusalem about his own suffering, death and resurrection and about the conditions for discipleship. The reign of God will begin with Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. It will expand in the lives of his followers through the resurrection and the gift of the Holy Spirit. One of points in the parable is that the follower of Jesus must be ready to take risks. A follower must put to good use their faith and relationship with Jesus. Like Zacchaeus, one must respond with initiative and joy upon encountering Jesus. One must make a clear decision to accept Jesus as their Lord. Then, one must use this gift to promote God's way in their life and the world. Jesus will hold his disciples accountable. Jesus entrusts the kingdom of God to his followers.

The parable also emphasizes that Jesus is offering true life. The image of slaughtering those who oppose his lordship expresses an Old Testament theme. In the Old Testament, especially the prophets, God gives his people a choice: choose life or choose death! Choose the way of justice or the way of self-destruction. Jesus offers the way of life and salvation. To reject his offer is to suffer the consequences. All eventually must choose. The consequences for those who do not follow mean that they will have no place in his kingdom.

THE MINISTRY OF JESUS IN JERUSALEM



Jesus has reached the destination of his journey. He enters the holy city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the center of the cultural, political and spiritual life of God's chosen people. This is the place that King David made his home and the capital of a united Israel. This is the city that King Solomon built the magnificent Temple of the Jewish faith. Here Jesus began another journey- the journey to the cross and resurrection. As he enters the city of Jerusalem he begins the most holy of weeks for our salvation.

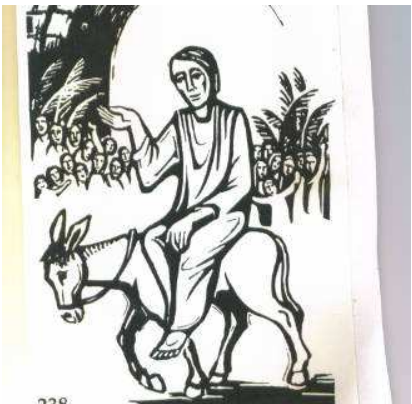
Day Three: Jesus' Royal entry into Jerusalem. (Read Lk 19:28-40)

19:28 After Jesus ⁷⁸ had said this, he continued on ahead, ⁷⁹ going up to Jerusalem. ⁸⁰
19:29 Now ⁸¹ when he approached Bethphage ⁸² and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, ⁸³ he sent two of the disciples, **19:30** telling them, ⁸⁴ “Go to the village ahead of you. ⁸⁵ When ⁸⁶ you enter it, you will find a colt tied there that has never been ridden. ⁸⁷ Untie it and bring it here. **19:31** If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ just say, ‘The Lord needs ⁸⁸ it.’” **19:32** So those who were sent ahead found ⁸⁹ it exactly ⁹⁰ as he had told them. **19:33** As ⁹¹ they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, ⁹² “Why are you untying that colt?” **19:34** They replied, “The Lord needs it.” **19:35** Then ⁹³ they brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks ⁹⁴ on the colt, ⁹⁵ and had Jesus get on ⁹⁶ it. **19:36** As ⁹⁷ he rode along, they ⁹⁸ spread their cloaks on the road. **19:37** As he approached the road leading down from ⁹⁹ the Mount of Olives, ¹⁰⁰ the whole crowd of his ¹⁰¹ disciples began to rejoice ¹⁰² and praise ¹⁰³ God with a loud voice for all the mighty works ¹⁰⁴ they had seen: ¹⁰⁵ **19:38** “Blessed is the king ¹⁰⁶ who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰⁷ Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” **19:39** But ¹⁰⁸ some of the Pharisees ¹⁰⁹ in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” ¹¹⁰ **19:40** He answered, ¹¹¹ “I tell you, if they ¹¹² keep silent, the very stones ¹¹³ will cry out!”

1. What impresses you most in this passage?

2. Name the emotions that the people felt when Jesus entered Jerusalem?

3. Name the emotions that the Pharisees and scribes felt when Jesus entered Jerusalem?



Jesus enters Jerusalem on a colt.

Jesus enters the outskirts of Jerusalem as the Messiah King. He chooses to ride a colt of a donkey. His choice is significant to his disciples and the crowd. When a king or general was bent on destruction, he would enter a city riding upon a stallion or warhorse. When a king's intentions were peaceful he demonstrated this by riding upon a donkey. Jesus enters as the Prince of Peace!

The response of the disciples and crowd.

Many in Jerusalem had awaited the arrival of Jesus. In his journey to Jerusalem he had demonstrated his power over disease, demons and death- destroyers of humanity's well-being and peace. His admirers are filled with uncontrollable joy. They break into spontaneous proclamation of faith, “*Blessed is he who comes as king in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory to God in the Highest.*” (Lk 19:38). This verse echoes the announcement of the angels at Jesus' birth. (see Lk 2:14). Jesus is about to fulfill his mission.

The crowd is at the brink of crowning Jesus as their Messiah King.

The rejection of Jerusalem.

The exuberant faith and joy expressed by the disciples and crowd is not shared by the power and authority of Jerusalem. The rejection of Jesus is expressed in the words of the Pharisees. : “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” (Lk 19:39). They prefer the order of the Roman rule over the peace of Jesus.

The Pharisees rain upon the royal parade. Jesus is rejected as Messiah by Jerusalem. This will not put an end to Jesus’ mission nor his anointing as Lord. The coronation of Jesus has been postponed by man but not cancelled. God the Father is about to anoint his Son. The cross will become Jesus’ throne. The resurrection will be his coronation.

Day Four. Jesus weeps for Jerusalem. (Read Lk 19:41-44)

19:41 Now ¹¹⁴ when Jesus ¹¹⁵ approached ¹¹⁶ and saw the city, he wept over it, **19:42** saying, “If you had only known on this day, ¹¹⁷ even you, the things that make for peace! ¹¹⁸ But now they are hidden ¹¹⁹ from your eyes. **19:43** For the days will come upon you when your enemies will build ¹²⁰ an embankment ¹²¹ against you and surround you and close in on you from every side. **19:44** They will demolish you ¹²² – you and your children within your walls ¹²³ – and they will not leave within you one stone ¹²⁴ on top of another, ¹²⁵ because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.” ¹²⁶

1. Why does Jesus weep for Jerusalem?

2. Have you ever been moved to mourn for a place or a people? Explain.

3. What does Jesus prophesy concerning Jerusalem?

Before entering the heart of Jerusalem, Jesus weeps for the city and its inhabitants. Their rejection of his mission and identity will cast them into a spiral of destruction. Jesus’ prayer for them expressed a lifetime of failed hope. He has not been in Jerusalem since he was twelve years old. However, his entire life has been a journey to the soul of his people, symbolized by the holy city, Jerusalem. The religious leaders see Jesus as a pretender, just like false prophets who had come before him. Their ancestors rejected the authentic prophets and even murdered some.

As Jesus looks over the city he is deeply moved to pity and sorrow. His tears express a profound sadness, not for himself but for those he came to serve and save. They will kill the one person that they so desperately need. His is the Prince of Peace. Everything that Jerusalem treasures is about to be totally destroyed.

Jesus prophesies the destruction of Jerusalem. Less than forty years following his entrance into the city it will be crushed by Imperial Rome. Not one stone will be left upon another. Jesus is not the enemy. The inhabitants of Jerusalem will become their own worst enemy. He weeps for the destiny that they have chosen and confirms its absolute destruction.

Day five: The purging of the Temple. (Read Lk 19:45-48)

19:45 Then ¹²⁷ Jesus ¹²⁸ entered the temple courts ¹²⁹ and began to drive out those who were selling things there, ¹³⁰ **19:46** saying to them, “It is written, ‘My house will be a

house of prayer,' ¹³¹ but you have turned it into a den ¹³² of robbers!' ¹³³ 19:47 Jesus ¹³⁴ was teaching daily in the temple courts. The chief priests and the experts in the law ¹³⁵ and the prominent leaders among the people were seeking to assassinate ¹³⁶ him, 19:48 but ¹³⁷ they could not find a way to do it, ¹³⁸ for all the people hung on his words. ¹³⁹

1. Have you ever visited a church building or participated in a church service that struck you as being more a place of business than a place of worship?

2. What does the cleansing of the Temple symbolize for you?



Jesus enters the outer court of the temple area. During the holiest of days this large area would have been packed with people. Animals were sold there so people could buy them for the Passover sacrifice. Moneychangers set up shop there so that the people could exchange their secular money, which was considered unclean, for temple coins. The outer court was supposed to be reserved for gentiles who were drawn to hear God's word, witness true worship and be moved to believe in the one true God.

The physical purpose of the temple had been corrupted. The leaders are content with doing religious business as usual.

The buying and selling in the outer court was not considered scandalous. Jesus is not so much lashing out at the buying & selling activity in the temple. His action is for more extensive and prophetic than that. Jesus is declaring that the whole temple system is corrupt and bankrupt. The temple has not done what it was created to do. It has failed to be a light to all nations. It has miserably failed to recognize God's authentic rule.

Jesus famous line "My house shall be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves," recalls the famous anti-temple speech of the prophet Jeremiah (Jer.7:11) Jeremiah and all the prophets who followed him promised that a permanent reform of the temple would have in the days of the Messiah. Jesus the Messiah has entered his temple to take possession of it and clean it up. Jesus came day after day to teach in the temple court. He comes as the great teacher for God's people. What the religious leaders had failed to do, Jesus accomplished, "for the people hung on his every word." (Lk 19:48).

The Pharisees, scribes and priests have been exposed. Their authority has been clearly challenged. They have made their decision. They must destroy Jesus of Nazareth.

Whether the house of Zacchaeus in Jericho or God's house in Jerusalem Jesus enters to bring about God's reign.