

LUKE 19:1-27

REVIEW...

- **LUKE 18:18-43 - THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM...**

- 1st - A rich man came up to Jesus - asking what good thing to do - to inherit eternal life...
 - Jesus defined 'good' as God - meaning no one is good enough to be saved...
 - He pointed the rich man to the Law - God's standard that shows us we are sinners...
 - The man only lacked one thing - sell all he had - he had a lot - so he went away sad!
 - It only takes one sin to keep us out of heaven - but salvation is possible with God!
- 2nd - Jesus was on His final trip to Jerusalem - He knew His time had come...
 - So He told his disciples again about the cross and the resurrection...
 - But they did not understand because they were looking for Jesus to rule and reign...
 - They also did not understand because they did not ask!
- 3rd - Passing through Jericho - a blind man called out...
 - He asked Jesus to heal him - but the crowds told him to be quiet...
 - Jesus healed him and told the man - his faith had 'saved' him!

ON THE WAY UP TO JERUSALEM... (2 THINGS)

- **1ST - SEEK AND SAVE THE LOST... VS. 1-10 (3 THINGS)**

- 1st - There was a VERY rich Jew named Zacchaeus (*Jewish name*)... vs. 1
 - Zacchaeus made all his money being the chief of the tax collectors in Jericho...
 - **Jews hated tax collectors because they represented Roman authority...**
 - **They collected taxes for the occupying Roman government - not for Israel...**
 - **The way the tax collectors made his money was by 'over-taxing' the people...**
 - **So not only did they represent the hated Romans - they cheated and stole as well!**
 - The suggestion is that Zacchaeus took a LOT of money from the Jewish people...
 - Apparently he was so good at his job - he got himself promoted to chief...
- 2nd - Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus... vs. 2-7
 - We are not told what his initial motive was - perhaps just curiosity...
 - He may have heard all the stories about Jesus - and he wanted to see for himself...
 - But Zacchaeus was VERY short and could not see over the large crowds!
 - **If you have ever been to a parade - you know how hard it can be to see...**
 - Zacchaeus ran ahead of the crowd - and climbed up into a Sycamore tree...
 - He knew Jesus would pass by - and he could see Him from this vantage point...
 - **I love the excitement of Zacchaeus - his persistence to get a chance to see Jesus...**
 - **Many people when it comes to Jesus / Word - have a half hearted attitude...**
 - **It seems that church is on the bottom of the list for most people...**
 - **If there is a disco / a party / a boxing match / a sport festival...**
 - **Pretty much any event is more important than attending church...**
 - **They may be willing to go to church - so long as there is NOTHING else to do...**
 - When Jesus passed by He saw Zacchaeus...

- He commanded Zacchaeus to come down quickly - He was going to stay at house...
- Jesus knew exactly who Zacchaeus was - even though He had never met the man...
- Because Zacchaeus went looking for Jesus - Jesus was looking for Zacchaeus!
- **Jeremiah 29:13** - "You will find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."
- God does not want anyone to perish - He wants us all to go to heaven - **II Peter 3:9**
- God created us with a desire to have a relationship with Him - **John 17:3**
- There is a hole in every man's heart - left there by God - which only He can fill...
- Many spend their whole lives in vain trying to fill that hole with worldly things...
- Money - relationships - family - alcohol - drugs - only to be satisfied for a moment...
- But only Jesus satisfies the desire of our heart - we will only be content in Him!
- Yet so many people never 'find' Jesus in life - simply because they are not looking...
- God has opened up the way for anyone to have this relationship with Him...
- But God will not force us to accept Him - we have to choose to seek after God...
- Zacchaeus rushed down - and was thrilled to have Jesus come into his home...
- When the Jews saw it - they ALL complained...
 - Zacchaeus had likely robbed everyone in the crowd with his high taxes...
 - Every one of them had good reason to hate this man - despise him...
 - The last thing they wanted was for him to be saved!
 - Salvation does not depend on you being a good person – you might be the worst...
 - Jesus gift of salvation is available to absolutely anyone who will receive it...
 - No sinner is beyond His reach - no sin so great He cannot forgive it...
 - **I Timothy 1:15** - "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..."
 - There is always room in church or one more sinner!
- o 3rd - The salvation of Zacchaeus... vs. 8-10
 - Zacchaeus stood up (*not sure it helped*) - to get the attention of the murmuring crowd...
 - He told Jesus - he would give half of all his goods to the poor...
 - And all those whom he had 'robbed' with high taxes - he would repay four fold!
 - Zacchaeus was following the command of the law for theft - **Exodus 22:1**
 - Zacchaeus showed in front of the crowd he had repented - he had changed his ways
 - Being guilty verses true repentance - **II Corinthians 7:9-10**...
 - When we make a mistake - we might beat ourselves up - condemn ourselves...
 - But if we do not turn from our sinful ways to Jesus - it means nothing...
 - Godly repentance is being sorry for what we did – understanding we were wrong...
 - Then turning from our sin to Jesus - repent and be forgiven – that brings salvation!
 - Salvation has come to this house...
 - Zacchaeus had shown that he was a 'son of Abraham'...
 - Not because he was a Jew - but because he had shown faith in Jesus...
 - Abraham is the Father of all those who believe by faith in God - **Romans 4:11**...
 - There is no other way to get to heaven - repent and believe in Jesus by faith!
 - Jesus told the crowd - He came to seek and save the lost...
 - The crowd might not have cared about Zacchaeus - but Jesus did!
 - Jesus did not come for the righteous - He came to find and save the sinners...

- Jesus is looking for the sinners - like a shepherd looking for His lost sheep...
- He came to rescue us from the sin that had separated us from God!
- 2ND - PARABLE OF THE KINGDOM... vs. 11-27 (3 THINGS)
 - Jesus was drawing near Jerusalem - for the final time... vs. 11
 - Just as the Religious leaders expected the Christ to set up His Kingdom - **Luke 17:20...**
 - And the disciples were looking for Jesus to rule and reign - **Luke 18:31-34**
 - The crowd also expected Jesus to establish His Kingdom immediately when He arrived
 - So Jesus told them a parable - to explain what was going to take place...
 - 1st - The Kingdom of God is not here on earth... vs. 12
 - The certain King traveled to a far country - to establish His Kingdom...
 - Jesus was the man going to a far country - to set up our home - **John 14:2-3**
 - The point being - do not look for the Kingdom of God here!
 - Jesus went away – to prepare a place for us – when it's done He will return...
 - He created the world in 7 days – can you imagine what He can do in 2000 years!
 - It is easy for us to forget this is no longer our home - we are waiting to go home...
 - Don't settle in - don't get comfortable - we are no going to be here for very long!
 - **Hebrews 11:16** - "...looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, he has prepared a heavenly city for them."
 - 2nd - What to do while we wait for the Kings return... vs. 13, 15-26
 - Before the King left - he gave ten servants 10 pounds of silver each...
 - They were to invest the money - to be used in the service of the King...
 - The idea is God has given each of us gifts and abilities that He wants us to use...
 - Areas where we excel and do better than others - art / music / work / talent...
 - We do not choose these gifts – they are given to us by God - **Romans 12:6**
 - Often we use these gifts for selfish reasons – but they were given to use for God!
 - If your boss gave you a *pala* and *spading* so you could go and work in the campo...
 - But instead you went and used those 'gifts' to build a house for yourself - not good
 - The King returned - having received His Kingdom...
 - He called together the servants and had them give an account of their funds...
 - **II Corinthians 5:10** – "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive... according to what he has done..."
 - When Jesus comes back for His church we will all be accountable for our actions...
 - What did we do with the gifts and abilities the Lord gave to us...
 - The faithful servants...
 - One of the servants had earned 10 more pounds of silver - so he had 20 in all...
 - Another servant has earned 5 more pounds - so he had 15 in all...
 - The King said to both - 'Well done good and faithful servant'...
 - They had been faithful in the small things...
 - Often we question the work God has us doing – it seems rather unimportant...
 - Perhaps God has called us to work in the campo – or raise a family...
 - And we just cannot see how that is important for the Kingdom of God...
 - But the small things are incredibly important – it is a time of preparation...
 - Christianity is not a 'Jollibee' religion - God prepares us before He uses us!

- I will make you ruler over many cities...
 - They had been faithful in the small things – they were given much more...
 - **When we are faithful in the little things God gives us greater responsibility!**
- There was one unfaithful servant...
 - He took the money he was given and hid it away in a handkerchief...
 - He had been careful with the money - but he had not obeyed the King's command
 - He justified himself - he was fearful of the King – He was a hard man...
 - He collected where he had not deposited - harvested what He had not planted...
 - This servant accused the King of being unfair - in truth it was just his excuse...
 - You wicked and lazy servant...
 - The Lord judged him with his own words – he knew all about His Lord...
 - But yet he did nothing with the money that had been given to him...
 - He did not even put it into a bank (*church*) so it could earn interest...
 - Rather than taking responsibly – he only made excuses for his laziness!
 - **Jesus has called us to use our gifts and abilities for Him...**
 - **When we choose not to – we can make all the excuses we want to...**
 - **Lord we were so busy – we had a store / we had a farm / there was no time...**
 - **But in the end they are only excuses – we know what God requires of us...**
 - Take the money from the unfaithful - and give to the one who earned 10...
 - The listening crowds argued - 'but he already has so much'...
 - Jesus replied – 'Even what the unfaithful thinks he has – will be taken away'...
 - Meaning those who choose to live for this world - and not for the Lord...
 - Even those things they think they have – will be taken away from them...
 - **What is it that we think is more important than serving the Lord...**
 - **Riches / possessions – we might think we have them but they don't last...**
 - **Only our relationship with Jesus is eternal – everything else is temporary...**
 - **We might know that is what the Word says - but it is not enough to know...**
 - **James 1:22 – “Remember, [the Word] it is a message to obey, not just to listen to. If you don't obey, you are only fooling yourself.”**
 - **We do not know when the Lord will come and require an account of our lives...**
 - **But we do know what the Word commands us to do in the interim...**
 - **Use the talents we have been given to serve the Lord!**
- 3rd - The citizens of the LAND - hated the King... vs. 14, 27
 - They sent a message after him - rejecting the rule of the King...
 - Note that it was the citizens of the Land - not of the Kingdom - who revolted...
 - **We can only be citizens of one of two kingdoms...**
 - **We either belong to the Kingdom of God - or the kingdom of this world...**
 - **Matthew 12:30 – “He who is not with Me is against Me...”**
 - **How do you know where your citizenship lies - ‘who rules over you’...**
 - **If like the unfaithful servant - we feel God is unjust - we want to live OUR lives...**
 - **If we reject His rule over us - then we are rejecting our citizenship in heaven!**
 - When the nobleman returned - he had them all put to death...
 - **There are only two possibilities on where we will spend our eternity...**

- Let us be like Zacchaeus - who eagerly desired to see Jesus / repent and change...
- Like a faithful servant - who uses the gifts God has given to serve the Lord...
- So that we hear the word - 'well done good and faithful servant'!
- Let us make sure that we have our citizenship in the Kingdom of God!