## Luke 19:1-27

## Review...

- Luke 18:18-43 The road to Jerusalem...
  - o 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!
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> 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!
  - o 3<sup>rd</sup> 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)

- $1^{ST}$  Seek and save the lost... vs. 1-10 (3 things)
  - o 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...
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!
- $2^{ND}$  Parable of the Kingdom... vs. 11-27 (3 things)
  - o 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...
  - o 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."
  - o  $2^{nd}$  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...
        - o Another servant has earned 5 more pounds so he had 15 in all...
        - o The King said to both 'Well done good and faithful servant'...
      - They had been faithful in the small things...
        - o Often we question the work God has us doing it seems rather unimportant...
        - o Perhaps God has called us to work in the campo or raise a family...
        - o And we just cannot see how that is important for the Kingdom of God...
        - o But the small things are incredibly important it is a time of preparation...
        - o Christianity is not a 'Jollibee' religion God prepares us before He uses us!

- I will make you ruler over many cities...
  - o They had been faithful in the small things they were given much more...
  - o 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...
    - o He had been careful with the money but he had not obeyed the Kings command
    - o He justified himself he was fearful of the King He was a hard man...
    - o He collected where he had not deposited harvested what He had not planted...
    - o This servant accused the King of being unfair in truth it was just his excuse...
  - You wicked and lazy servant...
    - o The Lord judged him with his own words he knew all about His Lord...
    - o But yet he did nothing with the money that had been given to him...
    - o He did not even put it into a bank (church) so it could earn interest...
    - o Rather than taking responsibly he only made excuses for his laziness!
    - o Jesus has called us to use our gifts and abilities for Him...
    - o When we choose not to we can make all the excuses we want to...
    - o Lord we were so busy we had a store / we had a farm / there was no time...
    - o 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...
    - o The listening crowds argued 'but he already has so much'...
    - o Jesus replied 'Even what the unfaithful thinks he has will be taken away'...
    - o Meaning those who choose to live for this world and not for the Lord...
    - o Even those things they think they have will be taken away from them...
    - o What is it that we think is more important than serving the Lord...
    - o Riches / possessions we might think we have them but they don't last...
    - o Only our relationship with Jesus is eternal everything else is temporary...
    - o We might know that is what the Word says but it is not enough to know...
    - o **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."
    - o We do not know when the Lord will come and require an account of our lives...
    - o But we do know what the Word commands us to do in the interim...
    - o Use the talents we have been given to the serve the Lord!
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!