

Our Mission:

To share Christ with the world
and grow disciples for Jesus



Loving God and Loving Neighbor as Ourselves

Background:

In today's text we see that the blind man sees, and the disciples do not, they fail to understand. As we continue, we see that Zacchaeus, the tax collector, gets it, while the people do not. Once again, we have those whom the good people assume have been rejected by God moving in step with the Kingdom, and those who see themselves as privileged out of step with Jesus. As Jesus describes salvation for Zacchaeus, he is not simply speaking about eternal life, but that Zacchaeus has discovered what makes for a 'good life' right here and right now.

Theology Connection:

Jesus has again attempted to instruct his disciples on what is awaiting them in Jerusalem. They, however, cannot conceive of anything but a triumphal entry into the city. To see the power of God in weakness, service, and self-sacrifice is beyond their imaginations. We too want a God who is revealed through mighty acts and wondrous displays of power. God's choice is to meet us at the foot of the cross when all pretenses has been stripped away. God has entered the very depth of our human condition to embrace us despite our brokenness.

Application:

Lent is often a time to put into practices spiritual disciplines that align us with God's purposes. Amongst those are acts of service on behalf of those who cannot repay our kindness. Might we take a cue from Zacchaeus, trusting in the blessings of God, we choose to be extravagant in sharing the blessing with others. Is there someone you might reach out to, offer aid and comfort to this week?

The Text: Luke 18: 31-19:10

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³¹Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. ³²He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; ³³they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again."

³⁴The disciples did not understand any of this. Its meaning was hidden from them, and they did not know what he was talking about.

³⁵As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. ³⁷They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."

³⁸He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

³⁹Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"

⁴⁰Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him,

⁴¹"What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied. ⁴²Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." ⁴³Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.

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Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ²A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short, he could not see over the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." ⁶So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

⁸But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now, I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

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

ADULT

We have lived our entire lives striving for success and esteem among our colleagues. When we retire that is often stripped away from us. Might we consider whether our greater desire is for significance? How do we live a life of significance that is measured by more than productivity? What is the legacy we wish to leave in the hearts of those who know us?

YOUTH

Please read Luke 18:31-19:10

Jesus told his followers that this was it; everything that was prophesied about Christ was now about to happen. Jesus followers would be there as his witnesses, to relate everything that happened to the Christians who would follow in the centuries to come. The Lord was heading to lay down his life as a ransom for all humanity. Jesus let them know he was going to be killed.

How would you react with that news? Would you believe it, would you try to stop it from happening?

Let us pray:

Dear God, thank you for dying on the cross for the sake of all of us. You knew what was coming and yet you let it happen. Please help us remember your sacrifice for us and help us live the life you want us to live. In Jesus name we pray: Amen.

CHILDREN'S

Read and Summarize:

When Jesus was nearing the city of Jericho, there was a blind man sitting along the road begging for money. The man was poor because he couldn't see, and because he couldn't see, he couldn't work. When he heard a large crowd going by, he asked who it was that was walking down the street. As soon as he heard that it was Jesus who was walking by, he cried out to Him. He knew that Jesus was the only one who could help him regain his sight. Everyone was telling the man to be quiet and leave Jesus alone, but the man would not, he continued to yell for Jesus to come help him. When Jesus heard the man calling to Him, he turned and came to the man. The man knew exactly what he wanted, and that was sight. He believed that Jesus could help, and Jesus did just that. Jesus healed the man, and he was able to see again! There were many things that the man could have done or have gone to see when he received his sight, but he chose to follow Jesus and praise him for his sight!

1. What did you learn from this story?
2. What kind of things can God help you do in your life?

Remember:

Jesus used this miracle to show us how great his power is, and what He can do when we have faith in Him!

Pray:

Dear God,

Thank You for revealing Yourself to us in the Bible. Please keep us safe, happy, and healthy!

Amen!