

Good News for all people.

The Gospel of Luke



Week 19 LEADER Discussion Questions Week of 2/12/23

Text: Luke 18:35-19:27

Icebreaker: You have 15 seconds to explain the purpose of your life to a friend. What would you say?

This question ties in with Jesus's statement in this passage that "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." It also relates to the purpose Jesus describes through the parable about the minas in chapter 19.

1. (*This question was included last week as well.*) In verses 35-43, how would you describe the blind man's words and actions? What qualities does he display that lead up to his healing by Jesus?

We're including this question last week since it fell within chapter 18 and was part of the sermon in Erie. This week, these verses will be part of the sermon this week in both Boulder and Thornton.

Application: Have you ever had a time where others challenged or opposed you in your pursuit of Jesus like the crowd did with the blind man? What happened and how did you respond?

2. What actions of the blind man demonstrate his faith?

The man cries out using a title for Jesus—"Son of David"—that expresses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah. He displays a persistence of belief in his actions. The crowd tries to pressure him to be quiet, but instead, the man continues to shout aloud for Jesus to show him mercy. The man also believes that Jesus has the power to give him mercy, and then that Jesus can specifically heal his physical blindness.

Application: What actions could others observe from your life, either recently or in the past, that display your faith in Jesus?

3. In chapter 19, verses 1-10, what actions of Zacchaeus demonstrate his faith? How do they compare with what the blind man did?

Zacchaeus runs ahead of where Jesus is and climbs the tree to get a better view of Jesus. The passage doesn't explicitly state that Zacchaeus is doing anything more than trying to see Jesus, but the entirety of the account suggests that Zacchaeus's desire to see Jesus was being driven by more than just an opportunity to catch a glimpse of a "celebrity." Next, Zacchaeus eagerly welcomes Jesus into his house. Ultimately, though, Zacchaeus decides to let his faith radically transform what had been the central importance of his life—the accumulation of wealth. Zacchaeus's sudden turn away from accumulation to generosity is nothing short of the miracle of salvation.

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Application: How do you think our faith should be reflected in our use of money and possessions, as it did with Zacchaeus?

The intent here is to consider how our faith is (or should) impact how we use wealth.

4. 9:10 sums up Jesus's mission: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." How do we see Jesus doing both seeking and saving in the accounts of the blind man and Zacchaeus?

Both accounts depict Jesus taking the initiative to reach out to the blind man and to Zacchaeus. In both cases, he also reveals a deep awareness of their greatest needs and the power to satisfy those needs. We should remember that immediately prior to these passages, Jesus is again explaining to the disciples that his mission is to get to Jerusalem to face crucifixion. Jesus's actions, then, are motivated not only by addressing an immediate felt need, but even more, to provide the only solution to the greatest need of salvation from sin.

Application: Since we are to follow Jesus's example, what do you think it could look like for us to engage in this same work...realizing that we cannot save others, but are called to express the good news of God's salvation?

5. In verses 11-27, what is Jesus's purpose in telling the parable? What is Jesus wanting those who hear the parable to do?

The start of the parable reveals that Jesus wanted to correct the belief that his kingdom was coming immediately. Since its appearing is still in the future, Jesus's followers need to understand what purpose their lives are to have in the meantime.

Application: What do you think you have been entrusted with to do "business?"

While the parable uses a financial example (a mina), we should likely include other forms of God's gifts—spiritual gifts, opportunities, relationships, etc. How are we demonstrating faith in all of our lives with all we have been entrusted?

6. In verses 20-23, what did the third servant fail to do that led to his mina being taken away? Why does his explanation fail to impress the nobleman?

The servant claims to have had strong concerns about the harshness of the nobleman's character that caused him to not put the money to use. The response from the nobleman exposes this as a mere excuse since a true concern about his character should have inspired him to at least look for a safe investment with a modest return. This third servant failed to put to use what he was given.

Application: What "business" are you currently engaged in to make the most of what you've been given by God?



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