



The Essentials: The Gospel of Luke

Session 6: Luke 17-19:27

Opening Collect

Together: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Read: Luke 18:35–19:10

Opening Thought:

The passage today continues much of what we've seen from Jesus' ministry in Samaria, his works of healing and mercy to the downtrodden and afflicted. But here we find an emphasis on the human response to Jesus' work. Both the blind beggar and Zacchaeus have frequently been used by Christian thinkers as representatives of faith. Additionally, Jesus' entry into Jericho is surely significant because it closes out his ministry in Samaria and signals his intentions for the ministry in Jerusalem. That Jericho was the location of Joshua's assault on the promised land (Joshua 1-6) figures in counterpoint Jesus' merciful and self-emptying siege of Jerusalem. Here Jesus begins his redemptive takeover of Jerusalem and the temple, not by violence or sinister strategy, but with sacrifice, healing, and directed compassion.

Discussion:

1. Consider the two people that Jesus engages in these verses. How would you compare the blind beggar and Zacchaeus?
2. Why do you think Jesus asks the blind beggar what he wants him to do? Doesn't it seem obvious?
3. What do you want Jesus to do for you? What do you think he wants to do for you?
4. Zacchaeus possesses tremendous ill-gained wealth. Why does Jesus show him favor?
5. As Jesus begins his entry into Jerusalem, he cannot help but pour out healing, blessing, and compassion. How does this passage encourage us to receive Jesus' gifts even as he pursues his great mission?

Check in and Closing Prayer

Luke 18:35–19:10

³⁵ As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶ When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. ³⁷ They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” ³⁸ Then he shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ³⁹ Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he shouted even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁰ Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him, and when he came near, he asked him, ⁴¹ “What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me see again.” ⁴² Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has saved you.” ⁴³ Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God, and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ² A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” ⁶ So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷ All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” ⁸ Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” ⁹ Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”