

Spending Time with Jesus in Luke 19

Don't forget to invite Jesus to speak to you as you read this week.

First read through: Read Chapter 19 all the way through, imagining you are there.

Second read through: Look for themes and underline them in the color on your key.

What do you notice?

1)

2)

3)

Third read through: Answer questions as you go.

Excitement and tension is building!

Luke 19:1-10

The Romans paid Jews to collect taxes for them. After all, a Jew would have a good idea how much money the people in his town had; the townspeople could hide how much they earned from a Roman, but not from someone who saw them several times a week.

The name Zacchaeus means "pure" or "innocent." He is named for a man in the OT who had 760 descendants who trusted God enough to leave Babylon (where they'd lived in exile for 70 years) to come back with Ezra and Nehemiah to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.

Luke could have introduced us to this character in this story with, “Now there was a chief tax collector...” Instead he says, “A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus...”? Why introduce him by his name instead of by his job title? How does Luke want us to see him?

Hmm...Luke says, “A man was there” when he introduces us. Where exactly does Zacchaeus live? _____ What other stories took place there? (Hint: last week...and Jesus set one of his famous parables here)

How about in the Old Testament? Who lived in Jericho and risked everything to follow God? _____ What do she and Zacchaeus have in common?

Other tax collectors had to give part of their earnings to the chief tax collector. Why do you think Luke points out that Zacchaeus wasn’t just a tax collector, but the chief tax collector?

To this day, Jericho is the lowest town on earth (846 ft below sea level.) You can’t get any lower unless you go to the Dead Sea. Does this give us a clue about where Zacchaeus is socially? How about spiritually?

What did Zacchaeus want? (v 3)

How many times are the words like see, look, and seek used in this story? ____

Who was looking for whom? (see v. 3 and 10)

Does this remind you of any other stories in Luke? How?

How about Genesis 3? Luke put it on the background screen with the words he chose. Go with me here: In Gen 3, the man and woman eat the only fruit that God commanded them to not eat. They ate it because it “delighted the eyes”. Then they saw they were naked and clothed themselves with leaves from what tree? _____ They heard God walking (a poetic way of saying God is coming to spend time with them), and they hid among the trees. In the
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midst of the heartbreaking consequences of committing treason against their Creator, God gives the man and woman a promise: one of the woman's descendants will one day strike the snake's head and the snake will strike his heel.

Jesus, fully God and fully human, is entering into Jericho, the lowest place people live.

What/Who does Zacchaeus look at? _____ What does he do gladly? _____
_____ What kind of tree does he climb? _____ How does he do the opposite of Adam and Eve?

Jesus is fulfilling the promise from Gen 3? "For the Son of Man came to _____ and to _____ the lost." Do you remember what the name "Jesus" means?

How is the story of Zacchaeus the opposite of the story of the "certain ruler" in Luke 18:18?

What does Jesus call Zacchaeus in v. 9?

Luke 19:11-27

Jesus has just healed another blind man (a Messiah-only miracle!) and said that the Son of Man (a title of supreme authority!) has come to seek and save the lost. The crowd anticipates the kingdom of God is just around the corner, and excitement is building! Jesus is letting them know that it's a good thing it isn't coming quickly. They aren't ready.

He'll use a parable to warn them: What happens when a new king takes his throne? His servants who have done what he's asked are rewarded, and his enemies are _____. It's a time of both rejoicing and of judgement.

What has God made his people to be? (see Gen 12:3 "in you _____ the families on earth shall be blessed (shall come to experience God and the blessings of living in right relationship with the King of Kings.)

Can you think of an example in Luke where some Jews had been a blessing to people from other nations? Are there some non-Jews who have come to know God and it seems the Jews have helped them (or at least been happy about it)? If so, you've found an example of a "mina" that earned more minas.

Where did the servants get the minas in the first place?

Herod the Great (the one who tried to kill 2 year old Jesus) had a son who went to Rome after his dad died in hopes that Caesar would make him king of the Jews. But a delegation of Jews went to Rome to tell Caesar they didn't want him as their king. Caesar listened to the Jews, and Herod Archelaus wasn't given his dad's throne. Jesus' parable has the crowd imagining what would have happened if Archelaus had become king.

It is a warning. He knows most of the Jews have refused him as their king. They are going to try to rule themselves, and in so doing they will anger Rome. Jesus is saying that God will not defend them; instead God will let them have their own way. Judgement is coming on Jerusalem. It will be a sign that they have rejected the kingdom of God.

In chapter 21, Jesus will tell his followers what to do when this judgement comes.

Luke 19:28-48

After pronouncing judgement on the Jews, Jesus enters Jerusalem both as the triumphant King of Kings and as the Passover Lamb. It's the Sunday before the Passover. What do we call this Sunday today?

What is special about the colt Jesus rides? (v. 30)

Would you want to ride such a colt in public?

Does what the crowd shouts in v. 38 remind you of something else in Luke?

Why do you think the Pharisees urge Jesus to rebuke his disciples? Remember, the crowd is getting stirred up and sure look like they are welcoming a king...

Rocks are mentioned in v. 40 and 44 and in 20:17-18. Any idea why?

What do you notice most about verses 41-45?

What does Jesus do at the temple in verses 45-47? Does it surprise you that he goes back?

Jesus uses another animal metaphor. What is a den for animals? So what does "den of robbers mean"?