

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of March 29, 2020

The Lost and the Least- Luke 18:35-19:10

Pastor Temple combined online service 10:30am

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)

- Anything to share about personal events since you last met or about applying last week's message on *Crossing the Border*, Luke 17:11-19?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

Opener Questions: Who was the most famous person you have seen up close? What were the circumstances? (question by Lyman Coleman)

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture, Luke 18:35-19:10. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

³⁵ As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶ When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. ³⁷ They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." ³⁸ He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ³⁹ Those 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!" ⁴⁰ Jesus 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. ⁴² Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." ⁴³ Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God. ^{19:1} Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy.

³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. ⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. ⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." ⁸ But 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." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?

- Today's scripture describes two people who encountered Jesus in the oldest continuously inhabited city on Earth, Jericho. See Christ Church "the Jerusalem Road Passport" for more information about Jericho (https://www.christchurchsl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/jerusalem_passport_fin_lent2020.pdf)
- What insights did the blind man seem to have that others did not (vs 38-39)?
- What do you infer about his personality or motivations from this encounter?
 - For further reading on the gift of desperation, see *Inside the Miracles of Jesus*, by Jessica LaGrone.
- Why do you believe Jesus asked this question with a seemingly obvious answer in verse 41?
- Poet and song writer Fannie Crosby wrote over 9,000 hymns despite being blind since she was an infant. How do you respond to this quote from her- "Do you know that if at birth I had been able to make one petition it would have been that I was born blind? Because when I get to heaven, the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior."
- Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector who was likely hated by the Jews and climbed a tree just to get a glimpse of Jesus as he passed by (vs 1-4). Why do you think Jesus singled him out in the crowd (vs 5)?
- What did associating with Zacchaeus do to Jesus reputation (vs 7)?
- Did Zacchaeus accepting Jesus self-invitation to his home or his quick promise to right his past wrongs against others surprise you? Why or why not?
- Why might others have thought of Zacchaeus as a lost cause where Jesus saw him as a lost son of Abraham (vs 9-10)?

Other Related Readings (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read aloud Romans 1:2-7.
- What defining characteristics of the gospel does Paul present in verses 2-4?
- How are who Jesus was as well as what he did both important?
- According to verses 5-6, what is to follow after receiving the gospel?
- The "old self" is a phrase commonly given to describe life before knowing Christ as savior and Lord. Why is having a changed life a necessary outcome of receiving the gospel?
- How do you think Zacchaeus's life was different after having met Jesus and experienced his good news?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the additional reading above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- The name Zacchaeus means "righteous one or pure one." Jesus called him by name and started him on the path of reclaiming the meaning of his name. What words or names do you feel God is reclaiming or calling you to grow into?
- How can we receive Jesus more fully into our homes and hearts this week?
- "For the son of man came to seek and save the lost." How do the stories of the blind man and Zacchaeus show you that no one is beyond the saving power of God?
- If Jesus were seeking to acknowledge faith at work or in process in our lives as he did with the blind man and Zacchaeus, what might He lift up this week?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- How was the broadening of the gospel mission beyond the Jews to the gentiles apparent in the way Jesus interacted with others?
- How are we helping to broaden the mission beyond just our peer groups?
- A volunteer may lead the group in prayer about the concerns shared earlier in the meeting.