

Our goal in studying the Bible is two-fold. One part of the goal as we read is to engage with our **mind**, to grow in our knowledge of who God is as he has revealed himself in his word. The other part of our goal is to engage with our **heart**, by responding to God as we read with our love, praise, gratitude, confession, needs, questions, and desires.

Engaging with our mind *and* heart as we seek the help of the Holy Spirit helps us grow in an intimate relationship with God through Jesus our Savior as we see him more clearly, know him better and love him more.

## Day 1- Read Luke 19

- How is God revealed in this chapter? What is he like? Who is Jesus shown to be? What is he like?

Pray: Spend time in adoration and thanksgiving.

- What is human nature shown to be like in this chapter? Is this true of you in your life right now?

Pray: Spend time in confession and repentance.

- What does this passage of Scripture show that you need from God? How does your heart need to move to align with what you see in Scripture? Is there something you need to believe? Is there action you need to take?

Pray: Spend time asking God for what you need to live for him.

Meditation: *Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*

## Day 2- Luke 19:1-10

Scholar's Note: We have already learned from our study in Luke that tax collectors were considered unclean. They were barred from the synagogue and therefore could only associate with others who were considered unclean. They were criminals who cheated people, used extortion, intimidation and violence to fill their own pockets. "Zacchaeus was no low-level tax collector. Architelōnēs (chief tax collector), used only here in the New Testament, means that he

was the commissioner of taxes; the head of the region's tax collectors. Zacchaeus was at the top of the pyramid; the common tax collectors had to pay him a percentage of what they collected."<sup>1</sup>

1. This story is so familiar to many of us from the time we were children and sang Sunday School songs about Zacchaeus. But imagine an important CEO or government executive in a three-piece suit abandoning all dignity and climbing a tree to see Jesus. What does this undignified, atypical act in verse 4 suggest?
2. What is surprising about verse 5?
3. In verse 5, "the particle *dei* (must) is used throughout Luke's gospel to speak of divine necessity."<sup>2</sup> What are the implications of the use of this word *must*?
4. What is Zacchaeus' response in verse 6, to Jesus seeking him out, calling him by name and inviting himself to the tax collector's house?
5. What is the evidence in verse 8, that God had done a saving work in Zacchaeus and transformed his heart?



In verse 10, Jesus distills his mission on earth down to one phrase—"the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. We see this so clearly in the story of Zacchaeus! Imagine, God incarnate, the Light and the Truth purposefully and resolutely seeking out Zacchaeus— traitor to his fellow Jews, extortioner, and cheater— and pouring out grace on one so undeserving.

The Bible tells us that no one seeks God unless God first begins a work in your heart. If you have trusted Jesus as your Savior and given your life to him it is because he came looking for you! He called you by name and poured his favor on you, even though you didn't deserve it.

- How does it help you in the struggle for significance to know that Jesus loves you, sought you out and saved you?
- Spend some time in thankfulness and praise, letting the following verses sink into your heart.

*Romans 3:11 "No one understands, no one seeks for God."*

*John 6:44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day."*

*1 John 4:19 "We love because he first loved us."*

*Ezekiel 34:11 "For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out."*

### Day 3- Luke 19:11-27

6. What were the two reasons Jesus gave in verse 11, for telling this particular parable?

Scholar's Note: "Because they were near Jerusalem, the crowd supposed that the earthly kingdom of God they fervently longed for was going to appear immediately. Their anticipation was growing with each passing mile and is even suggested by the Greek verb translated *appear*, which is a nautical term for something becoming visible on the horizon. But that earthly kingdom would be delayed, and Jesus would first be rejected by His people (John 1: 11), killed, and raised from the dead to provide the sacrifice for salvation. At His return He will establish His earthly millennial rule (cf. Rev. 20)."<sup>3</sup>

7. What did the nobleman instruct his servants to do while he was gone according to verse 13?

-What is it the king wants to know when he returns in verse 15?

8. How do the rewards that the faithful servants receive demonstrate the truth that faithfulness in the small things translates to faithfulness in larger things?

Picture and Ponder: “The splendor of the cities committed to them will be far less important than the fact that now they are the viceroys of the Lord and therefore among those closest to him and thus will always have access to him and be able to speak to him and tarry in his presence at all times. Their reward is that in the end the Lord will receive them with honors, that they will be privileged to speak and to live with Jesus forever. For heaven does not consist in what we shall receive, whether this be white robes and heavenly crowns or ambrosia and nectar, but rather in what we shall become—namely companions of our King.”<sup>4</sup>



Jesus told this parable to help his followers understand that he would be going away and would not physically establish his kingdom until he returns. In the meantime he wanted them to invest in the kingdom, to carry out his business with the resources he had given them.

We are still in the waiting period that the disciples were in, waiting and longing for Jesus to return. We too, as Jesus’ servants, are to be investing in the kingdom, carrying out Jesus’ mission, which he explicitly stated was to seek and save the lost.

How tempted we are to use what he has given us for ourselves, to be like the wicked servant who was lazy and indifferent to the plans of the king.

- ◆ Have you considered that everything you have is a gift from God to *use for his kingdom*? How does this change your perspective on the way you spend your money?
- ◆ How might you carry out Jesus’ mission using your:
  - Home and belongings-
  - Work-
  - Activities and routines-
  - Abilities and opportunities-
  - Health-
  - Hardships and suffering-

Day 4- Luke 19:28-44

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

*Zechariah 9:9-10 "Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth."*

-How was Jesus' way of entering Jerusalem significant?

9. What did the multitude of people following Jesus understand according to verse 38?

For Discussion: Why do you think Jesus was now allowing the people to proclaim him as king?

10. How were the Pharisees in verse 39 acting like the citizens in the parable in verse 14?

11. Why did Jesus weep over Jerusalem?

Scholar's Note: "The word translated wept is the strongest word in the Greek language for weeping. It denotes sobbing..."<sup>5</sup>

Scholar's Note: "The judgment of which Jesus spoke would fall four decades later in A.D. 70 when the Roman military crushed the Jewish revolt and destroyed Jerusalem."<sup>6</sup>

12. How does it impact you that Jesus sobbed over the people who rejected him?

Picture and Ponder: “Jerusalem had a special season of mercy and privilege. The Son of God Himself visited her. The mightiest miracles that man had ever seen were wrought around her. The most wonderful preaching that ever was heard was preached within her walls. The days of our Lord’s ministry were days of the clearest calls to repentance and faith that ever any city received. They were calls so marked, peculiar, and unlike any previous calls Jerusalem had received, that it seemed impossible they should be disregarded. But they were disregarded! And our Lord declares that this disregard was one of Jerusalem’s principal sins.”<sup>7</sup>



“You did not know the time of your visitation,” Jesus said. Jerusalem did not recognize when God visited them and they missed their chance for salvation. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 6:2b *“Indeed, the ‘right time’ is now. Today is the day of salvation.”* If you haven’t given your life to Jesus yet, don’t ignore the promptings of conviction that come to your heart, that is your day of visitation from God. J.C. Ryle says, “He that resists the voice of conscience may be throwing away his last chance of salvation.”

- ◆ If you have trusted Jesus as your Savior, pray for your loved ones who are not believers, that they will not ignore promptings from the Holy Spirit, that Jesus would be merciful and soften their hearts and open their eyes to the reality of who he is.

#### Day 5- Luke 19:45-48

Scholar’s Note: “The whole direction of Luke’s Gospel has been moving toward the cross (see 9: 51), and now Jesus has entered the city that kills the prophets (13: 33-34). The next two chapters take place during the Passover season in the temple complex, where Jesus will teach daily until he is arrested. As the temple is the center of the Jewish religious life of which Jesus was so critical, it is fitting that the final climactic showdowns of his earthly ministry should take place here at the temple.”<sup>8</sup>

13. How did Jesus show his kingly authority in verse 45?

14. What had the temple become according to verse 46?

Digging Deeper: Read the following verses:

*Isaiah 56:6-7 “And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant— these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”*

*1 Kings 8:41-43 “In the future, foreigners who do not belong to your people Israel will hear of you. They will come from distant lands because of your name, for they will hear of your great name and your strong hand and your powerful arm. And when they pray toward this Temple, then hear from heaven where you live, and grant what they ask of you. In this way, all the people of the earth will*

*come to know and fear you, just as your own people Israel do. They, too, will know that this Temple I have built honors your name."*

-The court of the Gentiles, the only part of the temple where non-Jews were allowed to worship, was where the religious leaders and other Jews had set up their whole money scam. How was this desecrating one of God's purposes for the temple?

-Why should prayer be the heart of the temple?

15. After Jesus cleansed the temple, what did he do each day the last week of his life and what effect was it having according to verses 47-48?

Scholar's Note: "From here to the end of chapter 21 the temple is Jesus' pulpit...His temporary appropriation of the temple and his exposition from within the temple's walls is one vast messianic act. His use of the temple was the last and ultimate glory of the temple, because it would be destroyed, just as Jesus would be destroyed..."<sup>9</sup>



Earlier in Luke, Jesus referred to himself as the temple. Jesus was the embodiment of everything the temple represented. Jesus is the presence of God, Jesus is the sacrifice for sin, and Jesus is the high priest who mediates between God and man. Jesus is everything we need.

- ◆ Spend some time reflecting on the following scriptures and thanking God for sending Jesus who is the perfect and only way for us to be with God.

#### **Jesus, the presence of God-**

*Colossians 2:9 "For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily."*

*Hebrews 1:3a "He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature..."*

#### **Jesus, the sacrifice for sin-**

*John 1:29 "Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!"*

*1 Peter 2:24 "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed."*

#### **Jesus, the mediator-**

*Hebrews 6:19-20 "We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."*

*Hebrews 11:25 "Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them."*

**One Thing:** Look back over this week's study. Pick one thing that God impressed on you, convicted you about, or something new that you learned and write it here.

How will knowing this impact the way you think and act?

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<sup>1</sup> MacArthur, John F. (2011-02-21). Luke 1-24 MacArthur New Testament Commentary Set (MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series) (Kindle Locations 24402-24403). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Thielicke, Helmut. As quoted in Hughes, R. Kent. *Luke, That You May Know the Truth, Preaching the Word series*, (Crossway, Wheaton Ill. 2015), <sup>4</sup>

<sup>5</sup> MacArthur, John F. (2011-02-21). Luke 1-24 MacArthur New Testament Commentary Set (MacArthur New Testament Commentary Series) (Kindle Locations 24402-24403). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ryle, J. C. (2012-07-17). The Gospel of Luke by J. C. Ryle (J. C. Ryle Collection Book 8) (Kindle Locations 5670-5674). Prisbnary Publishing. Kindle Edition.

<sup>8</sup> McKinley, Mike (2017-05-01). Luke 12-24 For You: For reading, for feeding, for leading (God's Word For You Book 14) (p. 119). The Good Book Company. Kindle Edition.

<sup>9</sup> Hughes, R. Kent. *Luke, That You May Know the Truth, Preaching the Word series*, (Crossway, Wheaton Ill. 2015)

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