The Gospel of Luke Lesson 34: Luke 19:1-27

Stone upon stone, brick by brick, the people erected an impenetrable double wall to protect themselves from those who meant their harm. The greater it became, the taller it stood, the higher it reached, the more secure they felt. But they would soon learn their wall was no match for the sound of His voice.

To the people, his heart seemed as impenetrable as the walls of the ancient city (Joshua 6), but Jesus knew his walls would fall just as easily. If Zacchaeus would come down from his high and protected place, Christ's words would break the barriers he had constructed from a lifetime of hurts and failed expectations until they laid crumbled upon the ground.

## Read Luke 19:1-10.

1. In Judaism, names were given with hope that they would reflect one's character. Zacchaeus means pure. How does his profession contradict his name? (v.2)

2. In addition, we are told that Zacchaeus was a man of short stature (v.3). Define stature. How might this have contributed to his career choice? What was he trying to prove?

3. How was a tax collector viewed by the public? How did Zacchaeus gain his wealth?

4. It is likely that Matthew's conversion (Luke 5:27-32) contributed to Zacchaeus' curiosity. What measures was he willing to take to see Jesus himself?

David Guzik has said, "Come down from your high place'. Jesus would never have eaten with Zacchaeus if he stayed in the Sycamore tree." Explain this statement.

5. That which Zacchaeus had spent a lifetime seeking was granted in verses 5-7. What was it?

6. In Luke 3:12-13, the publicans sought to be found well pleasing to God. What instruction were they given?

7. Return to Luke 19. What proves Zacchaeus' change of heart?

8. How does Zacchaeus differ from the Rich Young Ruler in Luke 18:18-23? How do Zacchaeus' actions illustrate verses 24-30 of Luke 18?

- 9. Why might Jesus have emphasized Zacchaeus' identity as a son of Abraham? (Luke 19:9)
- 10. According to verse 10 of Luke 19, who sought who? (Consider John 1:48.)

Think on John 14:23 and Revelation 3:20.

## Now read Luke 19, verses 11-27.

11. For what reason did Christ tell this parable? (v.11) What is revealed about the establishment of His kingdom in verses 12-13?

12. What was given to the nobleman's servants? What instructions were given? (v.13) Why were they to do this?

13. Like the servants, what has been entrusted to each Christian in equal measure?

14. In verse 13, *business* means to trade to turn a profit. Further, the King James Version translates *business*, occupy. What is required to accomplish these things?

15. Who are the citizens? (v.14) How will this make the servants' job more difficult?

16. How is one deemed faithful? What is the good servant's reward?

17. How did the wicked servant justify his unfaithfulness, neglect of duty, and fruitlessness? (v.21)

18. Austere means severe or rigorous; demanding strict attention to rules and procedures. How should the servant's beliefs about his Master have affected his actions?

As if to say, "You will have what is yours anyway, so why do I need to do anything?" How is the servant's attitude reflected in many Christians today?

19. Reread verses 24-26. What do these verses reveal about responsibility and opportunity, unreliability and loss?

How ought this to order our stewardship?

"In the Christian life we do not stand still. We use our gifts and make progress or we lose what we have" (Morris).