

Understanding the Gospel According to St. Luke

Luke Part # 97

In the past, we covered:

PART ONE: Introduction of the Son of Man (1:1-4:13)

PART TWO: The Ministry of the Son of Man (4:14-9:50)

• **PART THREE: The Rejection of the Son of Man (9:51-19:27)**

This part is divided into two parts:

- 1- The increasing opposition to Christ
- 2- Specific instructions (12:1-19:27):

A-The Lost and found (15:1-10)

P- A blind beggar receives saving sight (18:35-43)

Today, we will discuss:

Q- A sinner meets the seeking Savior (Luke 19:1-10)

- The familiar story of Zacchaeus summed up the whole purpose of Christ's incarnation: to SEEK and SAVE that was lost.

1] The City : Jericho.

- The first century Jewish historian Josephus described it as the richest part of the country and called it "Little Paradise" and "Eden of Palestine"
- It was full of palm trees, sycamore trees, cypress flower, balsam-plant and roses. Its name means "Perfumed"
- It was one of 3 main Palestinian cities for tax collection: Jericho, Capernaum and Caesarea. It was also a main trade city.

2] The Sinner: (19: 2-4)

- Zacchaeus is St. Luke's sixth and final reference to tax collectors [3:12, 5:27-32(Levi), 7:29-34, 15:1, 18:10-13)

- Although taxation was legal, and Jesus Himself paid taxes, why were tax collectors hated by the Jews? What was their social status?
- What does the name "Zacchaeus" mean?
- What was his job?
- Trying to see Jesus, Zacchaeus encountered 2 obstacles. What are they?
- How did he overcome them?
- What is the spiritual symbolic meaning of (climbed)?

3] The Savior: (19:5-7)

- On seeing Zacchaeus, what are the 4 moves that Jesus did that must have shocked him?
- When Jesus invited Himself to Zaccheus house, why did the people complain (grumbled)?

4] The Salvation : (19:8-10)

- Repentance = (Metonia or transformation) + restitution
- According to Numbers 5:6-7, what is the law of restitution?
- Although only Zacchaeus had repented, why did Jesus say :
"Today, Salvation has come to this **House**"?
- When Jesus said that Zacchaeus is a son of Abraham, did He mean by race or by faith?
- How do you compare the story of Zacchaeus to the story of the last time (the blind beggar Bartemaues)?
- Why did the genius St Luke mention these 2 stories before documenting the details of the Passion Week?
- Explain:" He is no fool who gives up what he can not keep to get that which he can not see".
- One saint said: "One characteristic of God's love to the sinner is that it is crazy" !
- In Mathew 21:31, Jesus told the Jewish leaders : " *The prostitutes and the tax collectors will go before you into the kingdom of God*".
- St. Maximus of Turin (4th century): "*Zacchaeus should be praised because his riches brought him to the threshold of the kingdom. From this, we understand that wealth is not a hindrance but a help to attaining the glory of Christ. While we posses it, we should not squander it on wild living but give it away for the sake of salvation. There is no crime in possessions, but there is crime in those who do not know how to use possessions. For the foolish, wealth is a temptation to vice, but for the wise, it is a help to virtue. Some receive an opportunity for salvation, but others acquire an obstacle of condemnation*".