

Luke 19 - Spiritual Perception or the Lack Thereof

The Lost

Luk 19:1-48 NIV 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.***"

Zacchaeus - Who is He?

His name means *Clean and Pure* - he is anything BUT

- a CHIEF tax collector - not liked by the people - created a track record of distrust
- WEALTHY - through extortion and theft
- He was SHORT
 - do you ever wonder if the way God created you may be his plan to reach you
 - Zacchaeus may not have run here if he was tall

How the people saw Zacchaeus

- vs 7 - a sinner
- But they failed to see what was going on inside His heart

But what was really going on inside his heart at the time

- He wanted to see Jesus and would let **no obstacle stand in the way**
 - He was too short so he climbed a tree
- **Gladness of heart** when the Lord said, "I must stay at your house today"
- He showed **fruit of repentance** by making it right concerning money

Man looked on the outward, Jesus saw what was in his heart - eager for salvation

- He saw Zacchaeus' heart - man looks on the outward, God looks on the heart
- He responded to Zacchaeus' interest

What they saw and what Jesus saw was two different things

May we not miss the opportunity to see others as Christ sees them

My Involvement in the Work of His Kingdom

11 While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once.
12 He said: "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. 13 So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. **'Put this money to work,' he said, 'until I come back.'** 14 "But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.' 15 "He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order **to find out what they had gained with it.** 16 "The first one came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned ten more.' 17 "'Well done, my good servant!' his master replied. 'Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.' 18 "The second came and said, 'Sir, your mina has earned five more.' 19 "His master answered, 'You take charge of five cities.' 20 "Then another servant came and said, **'Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. 21 I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow.'** 22 "His master replied, 'I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? 23 Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?' 24 "Then he said to those standing by, 'Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.' 25 "'Sir,' they said, 'he already has ten!' 26 "He replied, 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 27 But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them--bring them here and kill them in front of me.'"

He has given each of us talents for the purpose of “doing business” until He returns

- There are those who don't want Him to rule over them - called enemies (vs 27)
- There are those who invested the money and gained a return -trustworthy & good servant
- There are those who were afraid and kept it laid away - called a wicked servant

Maybe we need to understand the nature of stewardship

- 1 Peter 4:10 ESV As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

Maybe we are not sure of our spiritual gift - whatever your hand finds to do - do it

- What is your passion? What are you good at? What burdens you?
- Take a spiritual gifts inventory - not 100% - but can focus your attention
- Look at lists of spiritual gifts, (1 Cor 12, Rom 12)

Maybe we are fearful of stepping out

- Jeremiah - I can't speak, I am only a child

Maybe we have become spiritually dull and need to stir it up again -

- 2 Timothy 1:6-7 ESV ... fan into flame the gift of God,... .. (7) for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

The Worship that is Due Him (they thought Messiah would be a conquering King)

28 After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. 29 As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 30 "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Lord needs it.'" 32 Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. 33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" 34 They replied, "The Lord needs it." 35 They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. 36 As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. 37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: 38 "**Peace** in heaven and glory in the highest!" 39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "**Teacher, rebuke your disciples!**" 40 "***I tell you, he replied, 'if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.'***"

- Zechariah 9:9-10 ESV ... Behold, your **king** is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and ***mounted on a donkey***, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. vs 10 says ... ***he shall speak peace to the nations:***

The Stones Will Cry Out

- He is the **king**, coming to bring **PEACE** - people were shouting, and praising
- The Pharisees told Jesus to rebuke the disciples - if they had only known who He was
- He said the Stones Will Cry Out -- Maybe he was talking about the stones of vs 44

41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it 42 and said, "***If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace***--but now it is hidden from your eyes. 43 The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. 44 They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. ***They will not leave one stone on another,*** because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."

*From Josephus: "All hope of escaping was now cut off from the Jews, together with their liberty of going out of the city. Then did the famine widen its progress, and devour the people by whole houses and families; the upper rooms of women and infants that were dying by famine, and the lanes of the city were full of the dead bodies of the aged; the children also, and the young men wandered about the market places like shadows, all swelled with the famine, and fell down dead wheresoever their misery seized them. For a time the dead were buried; but afterwards, when they could not do that, **they had them cast down from the wall into the valleys beneath.** When Titus, on going his rounds along these valleys, saw them full of dead bodies, and the thick putrefication running about them, he gave a groan, and spreading out his hands to heave, called God to witness this was not his doing."*

The city did not see the things that Make for their peace
They had in their mind what Messiah should be like
They rejected Messiah - which led to their destruction

The Heart of Jesus Concerning His Church

45 When Jesus entered the temple courts, he began to drive out those who were selling. 46 "It is written," he said to them, "***My house will be a house of prayer'; but you have made it 'a den of robbers.'***" 47 Every day he was teaching at the temple. But the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the leaders among the people were trying to kill him. 48 Yet they could not find any way to do it, because all the people hung on his words.

In John - it adds ZEAL as the motivation

- Joh 2:16-17 ...[do not] make not my Father's house an house of merchandise. 17 And his disciples remembered that it was written, ***The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.***

Jesus has ZEAL for the church

[Strong's] properly heat, that is, (figuratively) "zeal" (in a favorable sense, ardor; in an unfavorable one, jealousy, as of a husband [figuratively of God], or an enemy, malice)

He purchased the church with His blood

- Act 20:28 ESV Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

He loves the church and will glorify the church

- Eph 5:25-27 ESV Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

***How do you see the church? How do you talk about the church?
May we see the church as Jesus does - may we be faithful to build
it up and love it as He does - with all its imperfection - it is after all
"HIS PLAN A"***

Spiritual Perception:

Questions:

- 1) How do we "see" the lost?
- 2) How do we "view" the spiritual gifts God has given us?
- 3) How do we participate in worship because we SEE him as King who has brought Peace?
 - a) have we created God in our own image?
 - b) Do we see Him as He truly is - thus inspiring true worship.
- 4) How do we perceive the church?
 - a) Do we love the church as He loves it?
 - b) Do we look down upon it?