

Week 4: Intimacy with the Savior

Opening.

This chapter in Luke begins with Jesus seeking after a sinner named Zachaeus, teaching about His personal mission of seeking and saving the lost, and culminating in His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, on His way to the cross---all of which point to His role as the Messiah who will save His people from their sin through His sacrificial atoning death.

Scripture. Luke 19:1-10

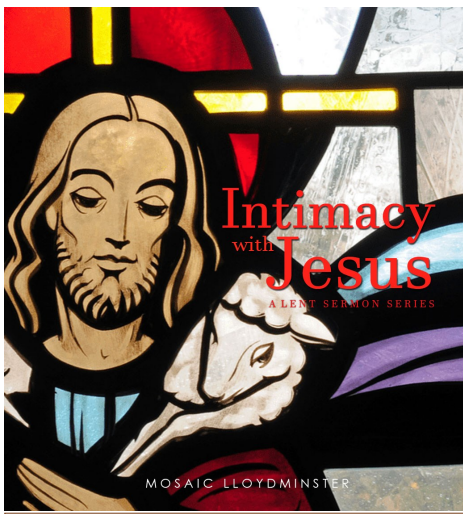
Key Observations.

- Jesus decides to go to Jericho. A man named Zacchaeus, described as a short man who couldn't see through the crowd, climbed a tree to see Jesus, only to find out that Jesus came to the city specifically for him. Talk in your group about how Jesus not only knows your name but every aspect part of your life. How does this impact your thinking?
- We learn that Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector of Jericho. Essentially, he worked for the enemy of Israel – the Roman Government. Tax collectors were often very corrupt, collecting more than they should for themselves. How do you feel about people who take advantage of the poor and make money off others?
- Zacchaeus welcomed Jesus into his home and threw a feast to the dismay of the crowd. How do you feel when someone you dislike, or perhaps someone you have had a sticky past with, comes to church and becomes a follower of Jesus?
- During his encounter with Jesus, Zacchaeus committed to give away much of his wealth. Read Luke 19:8-10. Zacchaeus did this because he found something better to live for. What hinders you from giving financially or to the needy?
- One of the commitments Zacchaeus made after he got saved was to give half of his possessions to the poor. This proves that “good works” is a result of our salvation. In Luke 18, Jesus invited the rich young ruler to give to the poor. Where else in Scripture calls us to care for the poor?
- Jesus tells the crowd His mission statement in verse 10.

Application.

- Do you ever feel that people are beyond God's mercy? Can you think of examples of people? How would this passage address those feelings?
- How does reaching out to the unloved and outcasts develop a more intimate walk with the Savior?
- How does this passage reinforce our understanding of our mission as a church? As individual Christians?
- Practically, what is one thing you can do this week, to help someone feel loved and accepted by God?

Prayer. Pray for people in your life whom you want to bring to Jesus.



SCRIPTURE

LUKE 19

1 Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. 2 There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. 3 He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. 5 When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today." 6 Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. 7 But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled. 8 Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!" 9 Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."