

Conquering Death Prepare for the resurrection

Luke 19:1-10

¹ 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."

Transition

- Today you may **OR** may not decide to do something important.
- Something that would be one of the most significant things you could do in your life.
- Today God is preparing someone.
- That someone doesn't know it but they are waiting.
- They are waiting on someone to bring them hope.
- They are hopeless.
- They are helpless
- They are disconnected from God and he desperately desires to establish a relationship with them.
- This is so important to God that he died so it could happen.
- That one thing is to be the person who God uses to lead them to Christ.

A really good question to ask yourself when reading the Bible is...

"Why is this in the Bible?"

- Why would God see it fit to make sure it made it?
- Why are we reading a story that happened 2,000 years ago?

What was Jesus doing?

- Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem where he would die.

- He is dialed in to this reality.
- He knows who he is and why he has come.
- Every destination is significant
- Every conversation is important.

What can we know about this story that is maybe a reason this is in the Bible

- Jesus was passing through.
- Jesus was on his way from one place to another.
- He entered Jericho but was on his way to Jerusalem.

I. **PRAY**

passionately with compassion for the harvest and harvesters.

God will send people in our path along the way.

Luke 19:1-2

¹ 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.

A. Unpack

1. There doesn't seem to be anything significant about Jericho here.
2. It was another city where Jesus went.
3. He was actually not staying there but was only passing through.
4. Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through.
5. And while he was there a man by the name of Zacchaeus was there... and oh by the way he was a chief tax collector and he was wealthy.

B. It is important to make a note here that Zacchaeus was not liked at all.

1. Rome would recruit Jews to do their bidding and collect the taxes.
2. They has a minimum required to collect and what was left over would be theirs.
3. Sort of a self-initiated "**bonus system**"
4. Zacchaeus was chief tax collector – meaning he was a manager or leader.
5. And he was wealthy –
6. His wealth was a stench in the nostrils of those who lived around him.

Illustration

- Imagine is we were invaded by a foreign country.
- That country now rules over us.

- However, we would be required to pay taxes to that country.
- That country would recruit locals to leverage their tax demands on the community in which they lived.
- To do this the occupying country would offer financial gain and a luxurious lifestyle.
- You just had to sell out and take advantage of your neighbors.

C. Jesus was passing through Jericho.

Illustration

- Most of the harvest opportunities we have are “on the way”
- People we encounter as we live our lives.
- People we meet through work.
- People in our classroom.
- People in our neighborhood.
- People in our kids’ athletic teams.
- Family members.
- The girl that serves you dinner at lunch
- The guy who does your breaks at the shop
- The people you will meet this week.

Application

- Pray passionately with compassion for the harvest and harvesters
- Prayer infuses spiritual
- Prayer softens the heart
- Prayer releases workers and resources for the plentiful harvest.

Matthew 9:37-38

³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

Action

- Write down five names of people who are within driving distance of this church who do not regularly attend church.

I. PRAY

passionately with compassion for the harvest and harvesters.

II. Engage

in “common ground” conversations with individuals.

A. Scriptural truth - Zacchaeus was curious.

Luke 19:3

³He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

B. Picture the scene.

1. Hears.
2. Jumps
3. Bends down
4. Runs his little legs
5. Climbs a tree

C. I wonder what was going through his mind?

1. What would cause him to do what he did?
2. Why would he respond the way he responded?
3. If we look closely we can see something.

D. Engage in common ground conversations with individuals.

The following conversation subject connect with the harvest prospects

1. Family
2. Vocation
3. Food
4. Health
5. Sports
6. Recreation (hobbies)
7. Politics
8. Current events
9. The future
10. Life Stages

E. You are asking yourself – where is the activity of the Holy Spirit?

1. Where is God at work?
2. What pathways are opening up here?

1 Corinthians 9:19-21

¹⁹ Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹ To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law.

Action

- Give a random act of kindness.

I. PRAY

passionately with compassion for the harvest and harvesters.

II. ENGAGE

in "common ground" conversations with individuals.

III. RECEIVE

knowledge and insight by the Spirit through prayer and conversations.

Jesus took the initiative with Zacchaeus.

Luke 19:5-6

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.

- A. Unpack the text
 1. Jesus reached the spot
 2. Jesus noticed what was going on.
 3. Think about the crowds so big that Zacchaeus could not even see Jesus.
 4. He was drawn to Him
 5. And he reacted in a way that caught Jesus' eye.
- B. The gifts are there so that the Kingdom is advanced.
 1. Spiritual gifts are for spiritual purposes
 2. Gifts are distributed by God for gifted service.

Use your gifts!!!

1 Peter 4:10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

The insights will focus on concerns or dissatisfactions in one or more of six areas.

1. Personal identity / guidance
2. Personal forgiveness / relationship with God
3. Personal healing / restoration
4. Personal purpose / significance or God-giftedness
5. Personal deliverance or transformation
6. Personal divine provision to receive or give.

Mark 2:1-5

¹ A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ² They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³ Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Application

- We must do it supernaturally.
- Natural techniques do not save souls.
- You can't save anybody – Only God can save.
- You can't convict anybody of sin – Only God convicts of sin.
- You can't transform anybody – Only God can transform
- You can't heal anybody – Only God can heal.

I. PRAY

passionately with compassion for the harvest and harvesters.

II. ENGAGE

in "common ground" conversations with individuals.

III. RECEIVE

knowledge and insight by the Spirit through prayer and conversations

IV. RELEASE

God's supernatural provisions through prayer, words, or actions.

Luke 19:7-8

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."

- A. Unpack.
 1. Jesus interacts with Zacchaeus and he repents.
 2. The interaction with Jesus released something supernatural that led to a transformation in Zacchaeus.

- B. Zacchaeus
 1. This is a biblical picture of repentance.
 2. How will you know if someone is genuine in their repentance.
 3. You will know that someone has genuinely repented with they work in the opposite direction.

- C. Jesus is in the transformation business and he wants to work with us to accomplish his Kingdom agenda.
 1. The Kingdom of God is advanced – not man’s kingdom.
 2. Drive the enemy backwards and move the borders of God’s kingdom.

- D. God invites us to participate with him in his supernatural agenda.
 1. We participate.
 2. We work with.
 3. Open your spiritual eyes and Open your spiritual ears.
 4. You will sense it.
 5. God will take you along with him.

GET READY!

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Ephesians 3:20

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us.

John 14:12

¹² I am telling you the truth: those who believe in me will do what I do—yes, they will do even greater things, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father's glory will be shown through the Son. ¹⁴ If you ask me for anything in my name, I will do it. (GNT)

John 21:1-19

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³ “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

⁵ He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

“No,” they answered.

⁶ He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,” he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. ⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” ¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Jesus Reinstates Peter

¹⁵ When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?”

“Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

¹⁶ Again Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

¹⁷ The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?”

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹ Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

I. PRAY

passionately with compassion for the harvest and harvesters.

II. ENGAGE

in “common ground” conversations with individuals.

III. RECEIVE

knowledge and insight by the Spirit through prayer and conversations.

IV. RELEASE

God’s supernatural provisions through prayer, words, or actions.

V. GATHER

the harvest possibilities created by the Divine intervention.

Luke 19:9-10

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.”

A. Unpack

1. Jesus sees his faith.
2. Jesus reinstates Lazarus’ position with his Jewish roots and community.
3. Jesus announces his purpose.

Illustration

- Allow the supernatural intervention to create opportunities for gathering the harvest.
- The miracle provision is not about the miracle.
- Gathering individuals or groups for eternity is usually the purpose behind divine intervention

Acts 9:32-35

³² As Peter traveled about the country, he went to visit the Lord’s people who lived in Lydda. ³³ There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years. ³⁴ “Aeneas,” Peter said to him, “Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat.” Immediately Aeneas got up. ³⁵ All those who lived in Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.