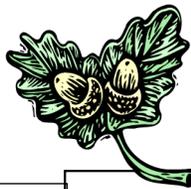


Mar 24, 2019



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

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Class Leaders:

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

It's never too soon to repent, but soon it may be too late

POEM FOR THE WEEK:

Come to Christ, for time is fleeting,
Harden not your heart today;
For it's Christ you will be meeting
On that glad or dreadful day. —
Anon.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwell in Jerusalem? 5 I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”
(Luke 13:4-5 NKJV)

from "Our Daily Bread", Oct 24, 1995)

Series: Discipleship & Mission

UNIT: Call To Discipleship

NEXT WEEK

Called to Return

(Luke 15:11-24)

Called to Repent Luke 19:1-10

Lesson Background and Introduction

Jesus had warned his disciples that he would be put to death but raised to life again (Luke 18:31–34; see also 9:22, 44; 13:31–33). Having arrived in Jericho, the setting of today's lesson, Jesus was only about 15 miles from Jerusalem and its momentous events. This lesson's account is the last of three in close succession in which Jesus interacted with individuals who sought him out. The first was a conversation with the man we call the rich young ruler (Luke 18:18–30); the second involved a blind beggar (18:35–43). The first man seemingly had every advantage and had followed every law of God; the second had nothing except the audacity to cry out persistently for Jesus' mercy. The surprising outcomes were that the advantaged man departed disappointed, while the disadvantaged one received his request and followed Jesus on the way. The reason we say surprising is because of commonly held viewpoints on privileged wealth and disadvantaged poverty (compare Matthew 19:23–25; John 9:2; James 2:1–4). Those outcomes set the stage for the third and final encounter of the sequence. This encounter is with a tax collector (older versions of the Bible refer to such an individual as a publican). People in every time and place grumble about taxes and tax collectors. But tax collectors in first-century Israel were especially despised. The Roman Empire had a practice of contracting for the collection of certain taxes. The process involved an auction for the authority to collect taxes in a particular location. Recognizing an opportunity to make a profit, people would estimate the taxes that could be collected and bid accordingly. The winning bidder would then do everything possible to maximize taxes collected in order to maximize personal profit. Tax collectors were therefore despised for two reasons. One was the unfair and burdensome taxes they charged to enrich themselves. The other was the fact that such Jews were collaborators with the occupying force of pagan, oppressive Romans.

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

A Divine Encounter - As Jesus passed through Jericho on His way to Jerusalem for Passover, God arranged a divine appointment for Him with a chief tax collector named Zacchaeus. This short tax collector heard about Jesus coming and was so curious to see this prophet that he climbed a sycamore tree to see over the crowd lining the streets. As Jesus was passing the tree He looked up and called Zacchaeus specifically by name, saying, "I must stay at your house today" (Luke 19:5). This the first and only time the Scriptures describe Jesus inviting Himself to someone's house. Zacchaeus agreed with great excitement and joy.

A Changed Life - The Romans used Jews to collect their taxes, and the hated collectors often charged more from the people to line their own pockets. When Jesus reached out to Zacchaeus and went to his home, it caused a lot of complaints and murmurings in the town. They strongly objected to Jesus' associating with this "unclean" sinner. Yet, Jesus' kind gesture touched Zacchaeus's heart and completely changed his life. The cheating publican became a man of integrity. He vowed to restore anything he'd taken illegally, even giving back more than he stole. Jesus considered his statements as a sign of genuine repentance. He also told his fellow Jewish brothers and sisters that Zacchaeus too was a son of Abraham, worthy to be a part of the community.

God Seeks to Save - In every society, certain groups become "outcasts" because of their politics, moral decisions, or a cultural bias. Jesus embraced Zacchaeus and demonstrated God's longing to save everyone—He's no respecter of persons. He sees all of us as sinners in need of a Savior. No one has continually done right and is able to stand before God with a perfect record. This is why God sent His Son Jesus into the world to die on the Cross and pay our penalty for sin, turning God's wrath away. Those who recognize God's heart of love and receive the gift of salvation that Jesus offers are now considered a part of God's family, welcome to feast at His table now and into eternity.

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Seeking Repentance (Luke 19:1-4)

God meets us where we are (1-2)

Meets us where we are because He chose us (John 15:16)

Meets us where we are because He wants to give us rest (Matt 11:28)

Meets us where we are because it is His Will (Eph 1:4-5)

Meets us where we are through the gospel (1 Thess 1:4-6)

Meets us where we are because of His grace (2 Tim 1:9)

Obstacles while seeking God (3)

Obstacles of all kinds of evil (1 Thess 5:22)

Obstacles from the devil (James 4:7-8)

Obstacles from my old self (Eph 4:22)

Obstacles of unrighteousness (Col 3:8-11)

Obstacles of things that hinder (Heb 12:1)

God provides way for us to find Him (4)

We can find God if we love Him (Prov 8:17)

We can find God if we seek His kingdom (Matt 6:33)

We can find God if we ask and seek (Matt 7:7-8)

We can find God when He is near (Isa 55:6)

Called Into Repentance (Luke 19:5-6)

Called to follow (5)

Called to follow into one hope (Eph 4:3-6)

Called to follow into eternal life (1 Tim 6:12)

Called to follow into fellowship (1 Cor 1:9)

Called to follow Jesus' example (1 Peter 2:21)

Called to follow into service (John 12:26)

Obeying the call (6)

Obeying the call to love God (John 14:15)

Obeying the call to live by the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:12-14)

Obeying the call to be obedient and serve God (Dan 3:16-18)

Obeying the call offer our whole selves as living sacrifices (Rom 12:1)

Salvation Through Repentance (Luke 19:7-10)

Salvation from sin (7)

Salvation through Jesus' Name (Acts 4:12)

Salvation through receiving the goal of faith (1 Peter 1:8-9)

Salvation through belief (John 1:12-13)

Salvation through the gospel (Eph 1:13-14)

Salvation through justification by Jesus' blood (Rom 5:9)

Salvation results in giving (8)

Giving to help those who ask (Matt 5:39-42)

Giving generously (Prov 11:24-25)

Giving to do good works (1 Tim 6:17-19)

Giving to share with others (Heb 13:16)

Giving purposely and cheerfully (2 Cor 9:7)

Salvation requires relationship with God (9)

A relationship that deals with the mind and heart (Heb 8:7-10)

A relationship that is written with the Holy Spirit on the heart (2 Cor 3:3)

A relationship through faith (Gal 3:26-29)

A relationship in which we are called children of God (Rom 8:16-17)

A relationship that makes us heirs of God (Titus 3:3-7)

Salvation of the lost (10)

Salvation of the lost because God searches for them (Ezek 34:16)

Salvation of the lost because Jesus came for sinners (Matt 9:12-14)

Salvation of the lost because there is joy in Heaven in saving the lost (Luke 15:7)

Salvation of the lost because Jesus died for the lost (Rom 5:6)