



Life Group Sermon Study Notes

“Reach the City: Jesus Goes To Jericho”

Ps. Jim Laffoon - September 8, 2019

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question to briefly answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- How has someone recently helped you in a way you appreciated?
- How have you recently helped someone in a way that was meaningful to them?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Luke 18:35-43 ESV *As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. And hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought to him. And when he came near, he asked him, "**What do you want me to do for you?**" He said, "Lord, let me recover my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Recover your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.*

- Have compassion on people. Notice the contrast between Jesus' response and his disciples' response to the annoying imposition of this man upon their schedule.

Luke 19:1-2, 5-10 ESV *He entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich... And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "**Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.**" So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*

- Don't write people off. Zacchaeus was among the least likely to repent and follow Jesus. He was corrupt and in league with the hated Roman occupiers of their land.

Luke 19:11-27 ESV *As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, '**Engage in business until I come.**' But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.'*

When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made ten minas more.' And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.' And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made five minas.' And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.'

Then another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief; for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man. You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.' He said to him, 'I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? Why then did you not put my money in the bank, and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?' And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.' And they said to him, 'Lord, he has ten minas!' 'I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slaughter them before me.'"

- Be faithful to give your life, abilities, energy, and time to grow God's kingdom. Reach people for Christ.

The three episodes illustrate how Jesus reached out to people to bring them God's salvation. Each teaches us a lesson about how we are to engage in evangelism.

1. Jesus healing the blind man illustrates Spirit empowered evangelism.
2. Jesus eating with Zacchaeus illustrates "presence" evangelism (being with people).
3. Jesus' story of the nobleman and his servants illustrates persevering evangelism.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- Which aspect of evangelism do you want to grow in: power, presence, or perseverance?
- What do you need to grow in evangelism: more compassion, faith, knowledge, or training?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God for the privilege and responsibility of telling others about Jesus.
- Ask God for opportunities this week to talk to others about Jesus.
- Ask God for growth in the way you want to become more effective in evangelism.