

## Wednesday Evening Bible Study

March 4, 2020

The Gospel of Luke

*Luke 19*

Topics – Luke 19; Zachaeus

Text – Luke 19

### Introduction

Today we will see how Jesus sought after a very sinful man, and loved him to Himself.

In order to understand this passage completely, we must look at a previous passage where Jesus taught a parable that perfectly illustrated His dealings with Zacchaeus.

Turn to Luke 18:9 - 14

Zacchaeus was most likely saved before he personally met Jesus in Jericho. He just needed some fine tuning in His faith.

### I **A Contrast in Attitude (vs. 11 - 14)**

The Pharisee had an attitude of Criticism

The Publican had an attitude of Contrition

Turn to Matthew 7:1 - 5

The Pharisee had an attitude of Self-worth

The Publican had an attitude of Unworthiness

Remember the parable of the Prodigal Son - same thing happens there. He realized his unworthiness, while his older brother spouted off about his worth.

The Pharisee Spoke about himself (and to himself)

The Publican made Supplication to God

Notice in v 13 that the Publican asks for mercy. The word translated mercy here is the Greek word *hē-lä'-sko-mī*, which means propitiation or atonement.

In the Old Testament we learn about the mercy seat. (Explain)

In the temple of Jesus Day, this Publican because of his sinful condition and his detested position, would not be allowed to participate in the atonement made the mercy seat on the Day of Atonement.

He asked the Lord to make a mercy seat for him. He asked the Lord to atone for his sins, which, of course, the Lord would do in just a few short months. This Publican was trusting in the coming atonement for sins.

**Soul Winning Principle # 1 - A person must be humbled in order to get saved.**

Note – a person must stay humble if he is going to be used by God.

## II A Cause for Fellowship with God (Luke 19:1 - 7)

Very Important - What takes place here in chapter 19 has to be preceded by what took place in chapter 18. There must be propitiation first, before there can be fellowship.

Notice the phrase in v 5: "today I must abide at thy house"

God wants to abide at your house. Is your house ready? Is your spiritual house ready?

The Bible says that your body is the temple (house) of the Holy Ghost.

*"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."* - (John 15:4)

*"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."* - (Revelation 3:20)

*"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."* - (John 14:23)

Notice also that it is a cause for celebration.

*"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."* - (Luke 15:10)

Notice - not everybody is celebrating - the Pharisee shows up again in verse 7. Actually, there are many of them.

**Soul Winning Principle # 2 - You must be able to meet people where they are (without participating in their sin)**

This principle applies to lost people we are trying to reach; and to saved people we are trying to grow.

## III A Correction in Direction (Luke 19:8 - 10)

The propitiation spoken of Luke 18, not only will change your attitude; and not only will be a cause for fellowship with God; it will also bring about a correction in direction.

"The things I used to do, I do them anymore"

*"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* - (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Hey - What's new about you?

Do you have a new conviction regarding your sin? Are you comfortable participating in all of the junk of the world.

Do you have a new compassion regarding the lost and struggling Christians?

Do you have a new compulsion for the things of God - the Bible, attending church, etc.?

Faith without works is dead - if you truly received the propitiation, the mercy, there will be

works that will accompany your faith.

We do not do good works in order to get saved - that's impossible anyway, but we do works because we are saved.

**Soul winning principle # 3 - Salvation is often preceded by contrition, but it is always followed with a new creature.**

Notice that the publican was headed in the right direction - the Pharisee wasn't.

Conclusion - Applications to Us

I am speaking to those who have applied the mercy seat, the propitiation, the blood atonement to their lives. I am speaking to those who have been born-again by the Spirit of God, to those who have trusted Christ as their Saviour to those who know for sure that they are in the family of God and that they have a home waiting for them in Heaven.

- 1 Watch Your Attitude - Don't be a Pharisee
- 2 Watch Your Abiding - spend time with the Lord
- 3 Watch Your Action - "Bring therefore fruits meet for repentance"

Illustration

Many years ago in St. Louis, a lawyer visited a Christian to transact some business. Before the two parted, his client said to him, "I've often wanted to ask you a question, but I've been afraid to do so." "What do you want to know?" asked the lawyer. The man replied, "I've wondered why you're not a Christian." The man hung his head, "I know enough about the Bible to realize that it says no drunkard can enter the kingdom of God; and you know my weakness!" "You're avoiding my questions," continued the believer. "Well, truthfully, I can't recall anyone ever explaining how to become a Christian." Picking up a Bible, the client read some passages showing that all are under condemnation, but that Christ came to save the lost by dying on the cross for their sins. "By receiving Him as your Substitute and Redeemer," he said, "you can be forgiven. If you're willing to receive Jesus, let's pray together." The lawyer agreed, and when it was his turn he exclaimed, "O Jesus, I am a slave to drink. One of your servants has shown me how to be saved. O God, forgive my sins and help me overcome the power of this terrible habit in my life." Right there he was converted. That lawyer was C.I. Scofield, who later edited the reference Bible that bears his name.

