

The Good News About Jesus as Luke Wrote It

Chapter 19:1-48

HoneyBee base version for oral translation

September 2023 Draft¹

Background

- In Israel the sycamore was a type of fig tree with strong, low branches, easy to climb.
- Exodus 22:1-4 specified amounts to pay back following a theft.
- “Many Jewish people believed that salvation belonged to almost all Israelites by virtue of their being descended from Abraham, except for those who excluded themselves by heinous crimes.” (IVPbbc)
- A mina was a measurement of money coins the equivalent of about one hundred days’ wages.
- Officials used donkeys for civil processions.
- Sellers operated businesses in the temple so that foreign Jews could buy sacrifices to offer there.
- Temple leaders had official authority, but they lacked the measure of popularity that the Pharisees and Jesus possessed.

History

- Both Herod the Great (40 B.C.) and his son Archelaus (4 B.C.) had to go to Rome to receive their “kingdom,” i.e., the right to rule Judea.
- An embassy of fifty representatives of the people went to Rome to oppose Archelaus’ appointment.
- The Romans would besiege and destroy Jerusalem in the war of A.D. 65–72.
- The complete leveling of Jerusalem followed the Bar Kochba revolt of 135 CE.

Themes

- The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.
- Those who have will receive more; those who have nothing will lose all.
- Blessed is the King who comes in the Name of the Lord.
- My temple shall be a house of prayer.

A rich man named Zacchaeus repents²

¹ Jesus and his disciples entered Jericho city and were going through the city. *It was a large city where many rich people lived, and it had many tax collectors.* ² There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector who was rich. ³ He tried to see Jesus but could not because he was very short. And there was a big crowd³ surrounding Jesus.

⁴ So, Zacchaeus ran further ahead along the road where Jesus was walking . He climbed a sycamore-fig tree *beside the road in order* to see Jesus. ⁵ When Jesus came by, he looked up *into the tree* and said, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, because *God wants me to go with you*^(sg) to be a guest in your

¹ Licensed for use under Creative Commons. Text in *italics* is implied from historical or cultural context. Superscripted ^(pl) means plural, ^(sg) singular, ^(inc) inclusive, ^(exc) exclusive pronoun.

² OR Jesus tells a parable about praying to God.

³ OR were many taller people.

house today!”⁶ So Zacchaeus climbed down quickly. He took Jesus to his house and welcomed him joyfully.⁷ The people who saw Jesus go there grumbled saying, “Jesus has gone to stay with a man who is a sinner!”

⁸ While they were eating together, Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord *Jesus*, “Lord, I am going to give to poor people half from what I own. And I will pay back four times the amount I took from those people whom I have cheated.”⁹ Jesus said to him,⁴ “Today, God has saved⁵ people in this house! This man, Zacchaeus, now truly belongs to Abraham’s family⁶ because *he has believed God in the same way that Abraham believed God.*”

¹⁰ *I say this because I, the Divine Human Son, came from heaven, to seek and to save people who have gone astray⁷ from God, just as shepherds search for their lost sheep.”*

Parable about the ten servants and the rejected king⁸

¹¹ Those who were traveling with Jesus heard him say those things. Because they were coming near to Jerusalem, many believed that Jesus would soon become King over Israel.¹² So, he told to them this parable:

“A prince prepared to go to a distant country where the Emperor would make him a king. Afterwards, he would return.¹³ Before the prince left, he summoned ten servants. He gave to each one a silver coin,⁹ saying to him, ‘Do business with this coin until I return!’ Then he left.

¹⁴ But many of his fellow-citizens hated the prince. So after he left, they sent some messengers to tell the Emperor, ‘We^(exc) do not want this man to be our king!’¹⁵ But the Emperor made him king anyway. When the new king returned, he summoned the servants to whom he had given the silver coins.¹⁰ He asked each one, “How much did you^(sg) earn with my silver coin?”¹¹

¹⁶ The first servant came to him and said, ‘Sir, with your one coin I have earned ten more coins!’

¹⁷ The king said to this man, ‘You are a good servant! You have done very well! Because you have handled/invested faithfully a small amount of money, I give to you authority to rule ten cities.’

⁴ OR said to the crowd about him. See verse 11.

⁵ OR I have saved.

⁶ Today, God is saving people in Israel. We know this because this man, Zacchaeus, is descended from Abraham. (Two plausible interpretations: (a) this is Zacchaeus’ house or household, and (b) this is the (lost) house of Israel, the descendants of Abraham.)

⁷ OR the nation that has gone astray. [Greek, ‘the lost (thing)’. Matthew 10:6 uses the same Greek word for ‘lost’ in “the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”]

⁸ OR Jesus travels toward Jerusalem.

⁹ OR a silver coin worth three months’ wages. OR money equivalent to three month’s wages. (This could have been silver or gold. A mina is not a metal but a unit of measure. Given the importance of the man, he could well have used gold coins. Anyway, silver is an acceptable tradition. At that time, a mina measurement was the wage a man would earn for working about 100 day.)

¹⁰ OR the money.

¹¹ OR my money.

¹⁸ Then the second servant came and said, 'Sir, with your one coin I have earned five more coins!'

¹⁹ The king said to that servant similarly, 'Good! I give to you authority to rule five cities.'

²⁰ Then another servant came. He said, 'Sir, here is your coin. I wrapped it in a cloth and hid it, so that nothing would happen to it. ²¹ I did that because I was afraid of what you would do to me *if my business failed*.¹² I know that you are a strict/stern man. *As they say*,¹³ 'You withdraw what you did not deposit, and you reap what you did not sow.'

²² The king said to that servant, 'You useless servant! You just admitted that I am a strict/stern man, withdrawing what I did not deposit, and reaping what I did not sow. ²³ Therefore, you should, at least, have deposited my money in a bank, so that I could have it back with interest.'¹⁴

²⁴ Then the king said to other servants who were standing nearby, 'Take the coin from him and give it to the servant who has ten coins!'

²⁵ They protested, 'But Sir, he already has ten coins!'

²⁶ But the king replied, 'I tell you this: To people who use well what I have given them, I will give more. But from people who do not use well what I have given them, I will take away even what they have.'

²⁷ Now, as for my enemies who did not want me to rule over them, bring them here and put them to death while I watch them die!' "

Jesus removes sellers who are marketing in the temple courtyard¹⁵

²⁸ After Jesus said those things, he continued on the road up to Jerusalem, going before the crowd. ²⁹ When they came near Bethphage and Bethany villages, near the hill that they call Olive Tree Hill, Jesus sent ahead two disciples. ³⁰ He said to them, "Go to the village just ahead of you. As you two enter it, you will see a young donkey that no one has ever ridden, that someone has tied up. Untie it and bring it to me. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' say to him, 'The Lord needs it.'"

³² So the two disciples went to the village and found the donkey, just like he had told them. ³³ As they were untying it, its owners said to them, "Why are you two untying that donkey?" ³⁴ They replied, "The Lord needs it." So the owners said that they could take it.

³⁵ The two disciples brought the animal to Jesus. They threw their cloaks on the donkey's back *for him to sit on*, and helped Jesus get on *the donkey*. ³⁶ Then as he rode along, others spread their cloaks on the road *to honor him*.

³⁷ As they came near to Jerusalem, on the road that descends from Olive Tree Hill, his disciples formed a great crowd. They began to rejoice and to praise God loudly for all the great miracles that they had seen Jesus do. ³⁸ Some were saying things like,

¹² OR if I lost your coin/money.

¹³ OR As we/people say. (The servant employs a proverb to describe his master's stern personality, without accusing his master of being dishonest.)

¹⁴ OR with more profit/gain.

¹⁵ OR Jesus cleans / purifies the temple.

“May the Lord God bless our king whom he has sent!”

Others were saying things like,

“May there be peace between God in heaven and us his people!” and

“May God in high heaven accept our praise!”

³⁹ Some of the Pharisees who were in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke/stop your disciples for saying things like that!” ⁴⁰ He replied, “I tell you this: If these people become silent, then the stones along the road¹⁶ themselves will shout *praise to me!*”

⁴¹ When Jesus came near to Jerusalem and saw the city, he began weeping about its people, saying, ⁴² “I wish that all you living here today already knew what would bring to you^(pl) peace with God and with others! But for now, you are unable to know these things.’

⁴³ *In a few years,*¹⁷ enemy armies will come and will set up barricades around your city. They will surround your city and attack it on all sides. ⁴⁴ They will break through your walls and destroy everything. They will kill you and your children. When they finish destroying everything, there will not be one stone left atop another. All this will happen because you did not recognize the time when God *sent me, your Messiah* to visit you^(pl) to save you!”¹⁸

⁴⁵ Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple courtyard. There he saw people who were selling things, and he began to chase them out. ⁴⁶ He said to them, “The prophet Isaiah wrote that God said, ‘My house must be a place where people pray!’ But you^(pl) thieves have made it a meeting place *to scheme/plan robberies and trade what you have stolen!*”

⁴⁷ Each day during that week Jesus was teaching people in the Temple courtyard. The chief priests, the Jewish law teachers, and other Jewish leaders tried to find a way¹⁹ to kill him. ⁴⁸ But they did not find any way to do so, because all the people there were eagerly listening to Jesus, and would have resisted them if they had tried to harm him.

¹⁶ OR stones on the ground. OR the building stones/blocks (in the temple).

¹⁷ OR The time is coming soon when.

¹⁸ OR to come to you to save you.

¹⁹ OR schemed and planned.