

Believing for the Advent-ure!

Living a Life of Daring Faith between Jesus' First and Second Coming

Luke 18:35-19:10

Reframing the Church/Redefining Success

Doing of the ministry of Jesus in a religious and secular world

Opening thoughts – “Catalyst” – Challenging and Shocking Christian Worldview

- A world crying for compassion and mercy
- A world crying for authenticity
- A world crying for relationship
- A world crying to be impacted by Gods presence and the in-breaking of His Kingdom
- The call of the church

Mark 16 [NAS]

15 And He (Jesus) said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. (To everyone, everywhere, in every way.) As Christians serve the people of Africa by providing them with clean water and a better environment it is a means of preaching the Gospel.

- The ministry of Jesus - (His missional statement)

Luke 4:18

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon me,
for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released,
that the blind will see,
that the oppressed will be set free, [Amp. - ...who are downtrodden, bruised, crushed, and broken down by calamity]
19 and that the time of the LORD's favor has come.”

Main Text: Luke 18:35-19:10

Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar – an act of mercy and compassion

35 As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind beggar was sitting beside the road. 36 When he heard the noise of a crowd going past, he asked what was happening. 37 They told him that Jesus the Nazarene was going by. 38 So he began shouting, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” 39 “Be quiet!” the people in front yelled at him. But he only shouted louder, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

- Jericho – Symbolic of a place of worldliness and corruptness
 - N.T. – A city rebuilt by Herod the Great as a decadent resort town – His winter palace was there.

- O.T- A place of redemption – Story of Rehab – an O.T. foreshadow
 - Prostitute and outcast.
 - Canaanite gentile – non-Jew
 - Was saved from destruction and was used by God.
 - A future of honor and blessing – Mother of Boaz, Great, great-grandmother of David, etc.
 - A hero of the faith in Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25
- A noisy world going past – fast moving world – the gap is widening between the rich and the poor.
- A world crying louder and louder for mercy.
- A cry of hope – “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” – Are you really the hoped for, the prophesied messiah? If so, Jesus really is the savior and Lord (i.e. the way to heaven and God).

40 When Jesus heard him, he stopped and ordered that the man be brought to him. As the man came near, Jesus asked him, 41 “What do you want me to do for you?” “Lord,” he said, “I want to see!”

42 And Jesus said, “All right, receive your sight! Your faith has healed you.” 43 Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus, praising God. And all who saw it praised God, too.

- “I want to see” – Jesus came to restore sight to the blind (Luke 4)
- “Your faith has healed you” – (your hope has brought you to faith)

Luke 19- Jesus and Zacchaeus

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Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. 2 There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. 3 He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. 5 When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. “Zacchaeus!” he said. “Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.”

6 Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. 7 But the people were displeased. “He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,” they grumbled.

8 Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, “I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!”

9 Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”

A wonderful picture of authentic salvation

- Jericho – A picture of the world.
- The poor in spirit – Zacchaeus was physically rich.
- Distraction - He tried to look at Jesus but he couldn't see past the crowd.
- Inadequacy - Too short – often the thing that keeps people from god - “I can't because...” unworthy, too busy, don't get it, etc.
- True seeker – made the choice to rise above the noise of the social multitudes, overcame his inadequacies for the sake of seeking Christ.
- Freewill - Jesus was going to pass by. (Rev. 3:20 Behold I stand at the door and knock...)
- Personal God - Called him by name. Speaks of God's all knowing – He knows you!
- Urgency - “Quick come down!”
- Intimacy - I must be a guest in your home – (Rev. 3:20 sup with you and you with me...)
- Joy and excitement. Jesus is real.
- Transformation - Zacchaeus turned his life around – Picture of true repentance.
- Sanctification - A change in character and integrity.
- Capturing the merciful heart of God. Too serve the poor.
- Fruit of salvation - Jesus acknowledged his salvation because of a transformed heart and life.
 - **Key verse** – “For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”

Two human social responses (both religious and secular) to the ministry of Jesus

18: 38 So he began shouting, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” (*A world crying for mercy*) 39 “Be quiet!” the people in front yelled at him.

- “Be quiet”

19: 7 But the people were displeased. “He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,” they grumbled.

- Displeased and grumbling – Agitation
- A prejudice against the broken

Characteristics of the ministry and commission of Jesus

1. A ministry of salvation and discipleship
2. A ministry of authority - Matt. 28
3. To every nation starting in Jerusalem – “The *glocalization* of the church” Local church with

a global vision.

- When Christians become aware of and care about the coffee they drink and the clothes they wear – how their life affects and impacts the globalized world.
- 4. A ministry that fulfills Luke 4 – To the poor, the broken, the prisoner, the poor in spirit.
- 5. “To all creation” Make 16 – “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. - Kingdom ministry is a ministry of stewardship

It’s time for the church to redefine success

- Not the number of warm bodies on Sunday morning, but the number of disciples – Those carrying on his mission and ministry.
- (How those bodies are living their lives – Do they have the heart and mind of Jesus?)
- Heart and mind of Christ
 - a. Compassion –
 - Mercy
 - Grace
 - Without prejudice
 - b. Courage
 - To go
 - To say it
 - To be – who you were created to be
 - c. Creativity
 - Willing to go out of the box
 - Sanctified risk taker
 - Biblical and spirit led, not different for different sake