

Salvation, Stewardship, the King's Arrival, and Coming Judgment

Zacchaeus and the Joy of Salvation (Luke 19:1–10)

Jesus entered and passed through Jericho, a city like a lush oasis in the desert. Jericho was a winter retreat for the wealthy—a place of palm trees, artesian springs, and year-round growing seasons. It was packed with rich tax collectors and Pharisees.

Among them was Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector—and very rich. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man, he couldn't see over the crowd. And because people hated him for being a corrupt tax man, he dared not push his way through.

So he ran ahead, climbed up a sycamore tree, and waited for Jesus to pass by. When Jesus came to the spot, He looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down! Today I must stay at your house." (Luke 19:5 NKJV)

Imagine Zacchaeus' shock—not only did Jesus notice him, He knew him by name! Scripture tells us Jesus knows what's inside a man (John 2:25). Zacchaeus climbed down joyfully and welcomed Jesus into his home.

Meanwhile, the crowd grumbled, *"He's gone to be the guest of a sinner!"*

But inside that house, a transformation happened. Zacchaeus stood and said, *"Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I restore fourfold!" (Luke 19:8 NKJV)*

Jesus declared, *"Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:9–10 NKJV)*

Reflection:

Zacchaeus didn't earn salvation by giving money. His generosity was the outward evidence of an inward change. Salvation transformed his heart, and with it, his view of possessions.

Personal Application:

When Jesus calls you by name, it's personal. He knows your deepest longings. Open your heart joyfully to Him like Zacchaeus did—and watch how salvation reshapes your entire life.

The Parable of the Ten Minas (Luke 19:11–27)

Because the people thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately as they approached Jerusalem, Jesus told them a parable:

A nobleman went to a far country to receive a kingdom and then return. Before leaving, he called ten of his servants, gave them each a mina (about three months' wages), and said, "Do business till I come." (Luke 19:13 NKJV)

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 as king, he summoned his servants to see what they had gained.

- The first said, *"Your mina has earned ten minas."*

He replied, *"Well done, good servant. Because you were faithful in a little, have authority over ten cities."*

- The second said, *"Your mina has earned five minas."*

Likewise, he was given charge over five cities.

But another came and said, *"Here's your mina, kept hidden because I feared you."* He was rebuked sharply:

"You wicked servant! You knew I was a hard man. Why didn't you at least put the money in the bank to earn interest?"

His mina was taken and given to the one who had ten.

Then the king said, *"As for those enemies who didn't want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them before me."*

Reflection:

This parable reminds us that Jesus has gone to heaven and will return to reign. In the meantime, He entrusts us with His work. Faithfulness in little things today prepares us for greater responsibilities in His future kingdom.

Personal Application:

You are called to occupy until Jesus returns—to faithfully serve, invest your life, and advance His kingdom. One day He will settle accounts. Are you living with that day in mind?

The Triumphal Entry (Luke 19:28–44)

After speaking the parable, Jesus continued His journey, ascending toward Jerusalem. As He approached the villages of Bethphage and Bethany near the Mount of Olives, He sent two disciples ahead:

"Go into the village opposite you. You'll find a colt tied there, one no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it to Me. If anyone asks why, say, 'The Lord has need of it.'" (Luke 19:30–31 NKJV)

It happened just as Jesus said. They brought the colt to Him, threw their garments over it, and set Jesus upon it. As He rode along, the people spread their cloaks on the road.

When He came near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began to rejoice and praise God with loud voices, shouting:

"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Luke 19:38 NKJV)

Some Pharisees told Jesus to rebuke His disciples, but He answered, *"I tell you, if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."* (Luke 19:40 NKJV)

As He drew near and saw Jerusalem, He wept over it, saying:

"If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes." (Luke 19:42 NKJV)

Jesus foresaw the coming destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. — a judgment that would come because they did not recognize the time of their visitation.

Reflection:

Jesus wept, not for Himself, but for those who rejected Him. His heart broke over their blindness and the devastation that would follow.

Personal Application:

Jesus weeps over every heart that resists Him. Recognize today as your opportunity to embrace His peace and lordship. Don't miss the day of your visitation!

Jesus Cleanses the Temple (Luke 19:45–48)

Jesus entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and bought there. He said:

"It is written, 'My house is a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'" (Luke 19:46 NKJV)

Each day He taught in the temple. The chief priests, scribes, and leaders plotted to kill Him, but they couldn't find a way—because all the people were hanging onto His words.

Reflection:

The temple was supposed to be a place of worship, but the priests had made it a corrupt marketplace. Jesus zealously defended the purity of His Father's house.

Personal Application:

Guard your heart, for you are now the temple of the Holy Spirit. Don't allow the world's distractions or the love of money to pollute what belongs to God.

Summary:

- Welcome Jesus joyfully into your heart like Zacchaeus.
- Faithfully steward what God has entrusted to you.
- Recognize and rejoice in the day of your visitation.
- Prepare for His return by living fully for His kingdom.
- Keep your heart pure—a house of prayer, not a house of merchandise.