

Week 03

Bible Passage

Luke 18:31—19:10 (Lent 5)



Sneak Peek

Jesus knew he would die and rise again; in the meantime, he continued to heal and to seek and save the lost.

New Sight

Desired Outcomes

1. To study Jesus' prediction of his death and resurrection, his healing of a man who was blind, and his encounter with Zacchaeus.
2. To consider Jesus' power and his mission to provide for the needs of people, both in physical ways and for eternity.
3. To ponder how we might share in the ministry of Christ by offering healing and good news to others.

Session Key Verse

"After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again." —Luke 18:33

Optional Materials

- Internet access
- Small notecards or slips of paper
- *For free digital resources to enhance this lesson, go to www.warnerpress.org/life-mosaic-resources.*

1 *Get Acquainted*



What is courage? How have you been courageous in your life? On a scale of 1 to 10, how “brave” do you feel on a regular basis? Sometimes courage isn’t the absence of fear but, instead, it means pushing *through* fear to do something despite the fear. Maybe you sent your teenager on a missions trip even though every fiber of your being wanted her to stay safely at home with you. Maybe you walked away from a job you loved to take a chance on something new. Maybe your family took in a special-needs foster child even though you knew it would be difficult at times. Maybe you went back to school after decades away so you could have more opportunities in the future. Share with a partner about a time when you pressed through fear with courage.

As we get closer to Easter, we see Jesus getting closer to the cross. But he kept pressing forward, toward the unimaginable, facing his future with courage.

2 *Discover*



Read and discuss [Luke 18:31—19:10](#). The commentary sections can be used to generate dialogue, or for study prior to your meeting.

Luke 18:31–34

Commentary

This is the third time in Luke’s Gospel that Jesus predicted his death and resurrection. Here he said that he would be handed over to the Gentiles, be mocked by them, insulted, spat upon, flogged, and ultimately killed. In

both Mark and Matthew, the third prediction summarized his delivery first into the hands of the religious authorities, who would then hand Jesus over to the Romans. Not so in Luke.

When taken together, the three accounts paint a larger and clearer picture. Jesus would be rejected by the religious leadership, given into human hands, and finally delivered to the political powers that be, who would mock and insult him. Each piece is a part of the fuller rejection of the Messiah by humankind. What is more, in the prediction from today's passage, Jesus claimed that this rejection would be so that "everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished" (18:31).¹

Questions

- **What was the significance of Jesus heading to Jerusalem? What was the timing of this passage in relation to the triumphal entry on Palm Sunday, which you will study and celebrate next week?**
- **How could the disciples *not* understand what Jesus was talking about? What were they expecting instead?** Describe a situation in which you missed some signs because you were only watching for what you expected.

Luke 18:35–43

Commentary

The blind man in this passage addressed Jesus as the "Son of David" (vv 38, 39). This title shows that the blind man recognized Jesus for who he was, the Anointed One of God. This is ironic in that the disciples, hearing Jesus explain again what it meant to be the Son of Man—to be rejected, mocked, killed, and rise again—failed to understand.

The disciples (stand-ins for the rest of the people and perhaps for us as well) could not see Jesus for what he was, but the blind man didn't miss him. And in the blind man, who received his physical sight because of his spiritual sight, there is a model for those who read the words of this story;

1. Adapted from "Commentary on Luke 18:31–19:10," accessed August 10, 2016, https://www.workingpreacher.org/preaching.aspx?commentary_id=1662.



we too are called to set aside our earthly “vision” and to see Jesus for who he really is.

It would seem that our only recourse in response to this story is to take up the blind man’s cry, asking Jesus to have mercy on *us*, as well.²

Questions

- **What about the crowd might have gotten the blind man’s attention? Why would the name “Jesus of Nazareth” have caused a reaction?**
- **What is significant about the title “Son of David”? Why might the blind man have called Jesus that?**
- **What did the man ask Jesus for when he shouted? What did Jesus say caused the man’s healing? How did the man respond? What was the crowd’s response?**

Luke 19:1–10

Commentary

Zacchaeus was a tax collector. The expectation in first-century Israel would have been that he was corrupt, practicing extortion, skimming some off the top for himself, and exploiting his fellow Israelites as he collected for Rome. When Jesus went to join Zacchaeus for dinner, those who saw it identified Zacchaeus as a “sinner.” His place in the community, his stature, was truly “short.” And, surprisingly, it was for just a one such as this, Jesus said, that the Son of Man had come.

It seems clear that the three portions of today’s larger passage could each stand alone, at least to some degree. So what does one part of this reading have to do with the others? The key phrase that ties the three sections

2. Ibid.

together is in 19:10: “For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.” The force of the overall story is in its irony. Jesus came for those who are not only found and seen by Jesus, but who in turn see him.³

Questions

- What might a local person think about a “chief tax collector” in your own community? Why?
- What is the significance of saying Zacchaeus was rich? Why would Luke write that Zacchaeus was “trying to see who Jesus was” (19:3)?
- Why was Jesus intent on staying at Zacchaeus’s house? What was Jesus’ purpose? What prompted Zacchaeus to change his ways when Jesus had barely spoken to him?

3 Experience



Option 1

Today’s text has three distinct parts: Jesus warning of what was to come, Jesus healing a blind man, and Jesus meeting Zacchaeus. Imagine you were going to teach these stories to children. **What would you highlight from each one? How would you zero in on the key points, teaching and explaining them so that a child could grasp them, remember them, and carry them into the week?** Split into three groups, with each group taking a different section of the passage. Come back together to share your lessons with the larger group.

Option 2

As a full group, compose a list of questions that could be used to interview Zacchaeus. Some questions can be directed toward things answered right in the text (Zacchaeus’s job, his tree climb, and so forth), but branch out into things we aren’t expressly told. **What did Zacchaeus know about Jesus**

3. Ibid.

before climbing that tree? What brought about the amazing change in him? Did that change stick? Have one or two people play the role of Zacchaeus and try to answer the questions posed by the rest of the group.

4 Apply



Meditate on and answer the following questions, then share your responses with a partner as you are willing:

Think back to your first encounter with Jesus. **How did you see yourself in a new way after that encounter? Did it prompt you to make a significant change in how you were living your life? If so, how?**

Jesus isn't interested in changing us once, but in helping us grow and change, day by day, to be more like him. Sometimes those changes are tough because they hit us in sensitive places—in our wallets or in our close relationships. **Is there a more recent encounter with Jesus that stirred a significant change in you?** If so, describe the situation.

What was Zacchaeus's attitude when he met Jesus? Did he change grudgingly, or because Jesus called him out? Or was his attitude something more positive? Why do you say so?



What change is Jesus asking you to make today? How can you cultivate an attitude like Zacchaeus, being bold and going all in rather than just doing the bare minimum?

5 Conclude



Sometimes when we dig into something at church or at Bible study, we feel inspired to change. We are ready to be different *immediately*. We want to be everything Jesus asks us to be. But we can lose sight of that passion, that momentum, when we get back to the routine of life.

Think about a small visual that would help you stay focused on the changes you want to make in your life based on the last five weeks of study. Maybe you want to write down a new insight, a commitment you made, or a verse of scripture. Maybe a picture will help you remember. Write your reminder down now, on a small notecard or small slip of paper if possible. You might

put the reminder in your wallet, on the dashboard of your car, or on the bathroom mirror—somewhere you will see it often and be prompted to meditate on it.

Pray with the group, asking the Holy Spirit to keep your hearts and minds focused on the things God has shown you over the last five weeks. May these new insights and habits take root and bear fruit for God’s glory.

Daily Bible Readings Week 3	<i>Sunday</i> Luke 18:31—19:10 <i>New Sight</i>	<i>Monday</i> Luke 19:11—28 <i>A Parable of Investment</i>	<i>Tuesday</i> Luke 19:45—20:8 <i>Jesus Cleanses the Temple</i>
	<i>Wednesday</i> Luke 20:9—19 <i>A Parable about Tenants</i>	<i>Thursday</i> Luke 20:20—40 <i>Jesus Is Questioned</i>	<i>Friday</i> Luke 21:1—19 <i>A Widow’s Offering</i>

Notes
