

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – May 23, 2021

Theme: Lessons From The Life of Jesus Topic: Jesus: His Outreach to the Lost

Main Text: Luke 19: 1-10

Key verse: Luke 19:10 *“For the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which was lost” (NKJ)*

INTRODUCTION: During Jesus’ earthly ministry, crowds followed Him wherever He went. He used every opportunity and occasion to teach and preach the kingdom of God to the multitude who followed Him. Each time, *the crowds were astonished at His teaching for His word was with authority* (Luke 4:32). But Jesus did not end His preaching and teaching with the crowd and multitude. He looked out for individuals who were ready for the message of the kingdom of God. Several records in the Bible show how Jesus ‘abandoned’ crowds and went into the houses of the most unlikely individuals, who were considered “lost” to visit with them. One such person is Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector and a rich man. In the eyes of the society Zacchaeus was a ‘sinner’ and was probably not in the good books of many because of his job (Luke 19:6). In the eyes of the disciples and the crowd that followed Jesus on that fateful day, Zacchaeus did not deserve Jesus’ attention. Besides, Jesus had earlier told them ‘*...how hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God*’ (Luke 18:24b-25). Yet, ‘*when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today, I must stay at your house”*’ (Luke 19:5).

1. (a) What do you think was in the mind of the disciples and the crowd when Jesus told Zacchaeus that He would stay in his house that day (b) Why do you think Jesus chose to go visit with Zacchaeus knowing how difficult it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God? See Luke 18:26-27 (c) What can we learn from the fact that Jesus always sought individuals among the crowd and multitude?

When Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was passing through Jericho, Zacchaeus ‘*sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd for he was of short stature. So, he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way*’ (Luke 19:3-4). And Jesus responded in similar token – He practically ‘abandoned’ the crowd to go after one person! Every impossibility with man became possibilities in this story: that a chief tax collector would desperately want to see Jesus so much that he would run and climb a tree, that Jesus would stay in the home of a sinner, that a rich man would so easily enter the kingdom of God. Although the crowd complained about Jesus visiting a sinner, Zacchaeus was blessed with the presence of Jesus and the gift of salvation for Jesus said, “*Today salvation has come to this house because he also is a son of Abraham*” (Luke 19:9).

2. (a) What do you think of Zacchaeus running ahead and climbing a tree just to see Jesus? See Luke 19:3-4 What does his action signify? (b) Why do you think Jesus made no reference to Zacchaeus penance/restitution as He blesses him with salvation? See Luke 19:8-9.

The Bible records Jesus on many occasions ‘leaving’ the crowd to focus on individuals or a smaller group among whom were people regarded as sinners or outcasts. Some of these include Matthew the tax collector, along with other tax collectors (Matthew 9:9-13), the Samaritan woman (John 4:4-26) the sinful woman in Simon’s house (Luke 7:36-48), and the rich young ruler Luke 18:(18-23). While some received salvation, others rejected but it was their choice.

3. (a) Why do you think Jesus applied one-on-one engagement many times in reaching out to people? (b) What can we learn from the fact that not everybody Jesus engaged committed to Him at the time (some rejected)? See Luke 18:22-26, Luke 7:36-48 (c) How can we individually and as a church seek people who are lost to bring the gospel to them despite the label they have - ‘difficult to reach’?

Prayer: *Father, thank You that Jesus came to seek and to save that which was lost. Help us to follow in His steps and fulfil the ministry of reconciliation committed to us. Amen.*