

Palm Sunday – Growth Group Study
John Malcolm – 28/3/2021

Read Luke 18.35-43

What is the location of these events?

What did people generally consider to be the cause of blindness? (John 9.2)

What do we know about this blindman? (Mark 10.46)

Why do you think Jesus said, your faith has healed you?

Read Luke 19.1-10

What are we told about Zacchaeus?

Why do you think Jesus wanted to go to his house?

Why were the crowd muttering with some distain when Jesus went to spend time with Zacchaeus? (Matthew 11.18-19)

What was it about Zacchaeus that moved Jesus to say, *Today salvation has come to this house?*

How did Jesus express his mission in verse 10, and how has that mission been seen in the lives of Bartimaeus and Zacchaeus?

Why do you think Jesus gave time to both a poor beggar and a rich landowner? What does this reveal about the mission of Jesus?

Historical Context

Herod the Great died in Jericho in 4 BC. Archelaus, his son was one of the heirs apparent, but needed to visit Rome to be recognised as king. However, he was an unpopular leader and others spoke against him. He was not appointed to be King, only to a position similar to that of a governor. However, in the 10th year of his rule the authorities again complained about him and the Emperor banished him to Gaul.

A minas was the equivalent of just over three months wages.

Read Luke 19.11-27

What expectation was Jesus trying to address in this parable, and why was it important to do so?

Who are the key characters in the story and what part do they play?

What did the aspiring king tell his servants to do with the minas he gave them, and what do you think he meant by this?

Where does the king go, and what is the purpose of his journey?

Why do you think, when the king returned, he gave his faithful servants such generous rewards?

What does this teach us about the true nature of the king, compared to the description given by the “wicked” servant?

How might the wicked servant have been like Judas, close to the king but not truly understanding the king?

Darrall Bock writes, *Such people, though they appear as members of the community, have never walked through the door of faith that responds to grace, providing a genuine entrance into the community. Connection to a Christian community is not what makes a Christian. A Christian is a person who has a relationship with Jesus.*

Read Luke 19.35-38

Why do you think Luke places the parable of the king just prior to Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey? What do you suppose Luke is trying to reveal to us?

Read Luke 19.41-42

What do these verses reveal to us about Jesus’ view of the people of Israel?

Compare/contrast what we learn of Bartimaeus and Jerusalem.

Read Matthew 28.18-20 Acts 1.8

How might the promised gift from Jesus and the commissioning of his servants, be like that of the king in the parable?

What does this teach us about the absence/return of the king?

For reflection:

Do you relate more closely with Bartimaeus or with Jerusalem?

What are you doing with the gift Jesus has given to fulfil the mission he has given you?

What could you do this week to be more faithful with that gift?