

Title: A BRIEF STOP IN JERICHO, LUKE 19:1 – 10
(Chatham, NJ; 11/6/16, AM) [Pd – Narrative; Comparison and Contrast]

Theme: During a stop in Jericho on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus heals a blind man, saves a tax collector, and teaches the disciples about the coming of the Kingdom.

Purpose: To illustrate the contrasts between the way the crowds often react and the way Jesus treats the individuals or groups involved.

Introduction:

1. Jesus tells the disciples, "We are going to Jerusalem," 18:31.
2. He will encounter suffering and death but also resurrection, 33.
3. His disciples did not understand, 34.
4. They have misunderstood other things:
 - Some rebuked the children, 18:15
 - They are shocked that the rich ruler, for all his apparent piety, cannot be saved, 26
5. A brief stop in Jericho reveals more of this but also more insights into Jesus' ministry.
6. Jericho's history: the first city taken by Joshua but also where one soldier sinned, the city of Rahab the harlot, and the city under a curse for rebuilding the city gates
7. Jesus encounters some unique people here.

I. The Blind Beggar, 18:35-43 (Jesus drew near to Jericho)

- A. What the crowd does
 1. He cries out for Jesus
 2. The crowd rebukes him
 3. Are these just bystanders, gawkers with no allegiance to Jesus, or are they the disciples?
 4. This blind man has become a nuisance
 5. He has disrupted the parade
- B. What Jesus does
 1. Jesus calls for him to approach
 2. He asks the blind man what he wants
 3. He restores his sight
 4. Not only does Jesus take the time for him, but this blind man becomes a great symbol of Jesus' role
 5. Luke 4:18 and Isaiah 61:1-2 are fulfilled
 6. The people rejoice; anticipation builds

II. Lunch with a Tax Collector, 19:1-10 ("He entered Jericho . . .")

- A. Still not getting it: how the crowd reacts
 1. Jesus invites himself to dinner with a rich, chief tax collector, Zacchaeus
 2. The crowd reacted with dismay: "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner," 7.
 3. "They all grumbled." (Again, just the bystanders?)
 4. I'd like to believe that at least the disciples understood by this time that Jesus' ministry was to reach sinners
 5. But it is still uncertain how much they understood
- B. Insights we get: what Jesus does and says
 1. Even if a tax collector is humble (18:13), repentance is still expected
 2. Z.'s joy is accompanied by tangible changes: restitution of fraudulent money, gifts to the poor

3. Attitude toward wealth is essential to salvation: contrast this sinner with the pious, rich ruler (18:23).
4. Zacchaeus reflects Jesus' essential mission
5. This is why Jesus came: to seek and save the lost

III. The Coming Kingdom, 19:11 – 27

A. What the crowd doesn't understand

1. Many supposed that the Kingdom would appear immediately, 11
2. Their grasp of the nature of the Kingdom had always been faulty
3. John 6 – some wanted to make Jesus king by force after he fed them
4. Peter fights when Jesus is arrested: cutting off Malchus' ear
5. Furthermore, they had not understood the previous discussion, 18:34

B. Insights from Jesus' parable

1. Similar but different from the Talents in Matthew
2. Similarities: king gives servants money, answerable for what they do with it, one servant has it taken from him
3. Differences: a king whose subjects don't like him, bad servant not punished though he gets money taken away, others object it is given to the one who already has ten, and the king destroys his enemies
4. Delay of the king's return and expectations of stewardship are still part of the message and addresses the anticipation of the crowd for the Kingdom
5. The different part of this is that the King comes in judgment: another one of Luke's reversals, namely, those who anticipate the kingdom may be the very objects of punishment (as in Amos 5:18-20) rather than reward
6. Their joyful anticipation will turn to sorrow when God comes

Conclusions:

1. Jesus now continues to Jerusalem, 19:28.
2. All the faulty expectations of the disciples will be overturned.
3. The mission to sinners will commence fully.
4. The blind, the tax collectors, and the sinners will be welcomed into communion with God while many who presume to be on God's side will be turned out.
5. The disciples will preach repentance that lead to life, Acts 11:18.
6. This is the message we need to hear and respond to.