

With God there are no outsiders. Luke is a most vigorous champion of the outsider. An outsider himself, the only Gentile in an all-Jewish cast of New Testament writers, he shows how Jesus includes those who typically were treated as outsiders by the religious establishment of the day: women, common laborers (shepherders), the racially different (Samaritans), the poor. He will not countenance religion as a club. As Luke tells the story, all of us who have found ourselves on the outside looking in on life with no hope of gaining entrance (and who of us hasn't felt it?) now find the doors wide open, found and welcomed by God in Jesus..

At the center of Luke's Gospel (Luke 9:51-19:44), there is a ten-chapter insertion that features stories and teachings between Jesus, his followers, and other men and women he meets along the way. The section is framed by references to leaving Galilee (9:51) and then arriving in Jerusalem (19:11, 28,41). Because of these framing references it is often designated the Travel Narrative. Most of the material in these ten chapters is unique to Luke.

The first nine chapters of Luke's Gospel tell the story of the Galilean ministry of Jesus, following the pattern set down by Matthew and Mark. The Galilean story lays the foundations for our lives in Christ. The final five chapters tell the story of the final week of Jesus' ministry in Jerusalem - Jesus rejected, crucified, and raised to new life - and also follow Matthew and Mark. The Jerusalem story consummates our lives in Christ: crucifixion, resurrection. What Jesus said and did in the early years in Galilee has continuities ties with what took place in that last week in Jerusalem. The transition between the two places is narrated as a journey through Samaria, the country that separated Galilee from Jerusalem.

Jesus is preparing them (us!) to live a crucifixion and resurrection life patiently and without out fanfare, obediently and without recognition. He prepares them in these Samaritan conversations to quietly and courageously do all this in continuity with the way Jesus did it and the way Jesus talked about it.

Commentary on Luke from The Bible Project:

- <https://thebibleproject.com/videos/luke-1-9/>
- <https://thebibleproject.com/videos/luke-10-24/>

Commentary on Luke 9-19 from The Bible Project:

- <https://thebibleproject.com/videos/luke-ch-9-19/>

Commentary on Luke 19 from bible.org:

- <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-87-why-jesus-came-luke-191-10>
- <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-88-doing-business-jesus-luke-1911-27>
- <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-89-why-you-should-follow-jesus-luke-1928-44>

READ Luke 19.1-44

(The following discussion questions are adapted from The Serendipity Bible)

Opening

- If you could pick an ideal height, how tall would you be?
- How do you make your grand entry when you come home: With a silent grunt? A big splash? A hug and kiss? Yelling, “What’s for dinner?”

Digging in — Discovering the Word

- How does Zacchaeus compare with the rich, young ruler in his approach and response to Jesus?
- Why does Jesus dine with him? Why does this bother others? Do you think Jesus’ words (vv.9-10) stopped the crowd’s muttering?
- Where does the man of noble birth go? Why? What are his servants to do in his absence?
- What is the meaning of verses 14 and 27? Who are the enemies?
- What has happened to the 10 minas given to the first servant? The second servant? How does the master reply to them? How is the third servant’s report influenced by a faulty perception of his master? Hence, what is his “reward”?
- Does verse 26 contradict Jesus’ words to the ruler in 18:18-30? Why or Why not?
- How does this parable speak to the misconception in verse 11?
- How close is Jesus to Jerusalem now (v.29)?
- What task does he give two of his disciples? Why? What problems might they have encountered in such a job?
- How do you picture the scene in verses 35-38? What do you see? Hear? Feel?
- What were the people expecting Jesus to do when he reached Jerusalem (v.11; see Zec 9:9)? How are their expectations different from his? How does this help to explain Jesus’ words and emotions in verses 41-44?
- What does Jesus’ reply to the Pharisees (vv.39-40) IMPLY ABOUT HIM?

Connecting the Dots — Applying the Word

- Where did Jesus first find you? (Up a tree? Out on a limb?) How did he get you to join him?
- What talents and resources do you think Jesus left with you? How do you feel about the way you have invested them? How could you be more prudent in the way you invest?
- Is fear ever a motive in your relationship with Christ? Why?
- What kind of reception would Jesus get: a) If he rode into your town today? B) after the people hear the message?
- How would he be treated by the local media? By elected officials? The guys in the tavern? The ladies in the bridge club?
- What person or group of people do you weep for?