

1 **Luke: Narrative, Fulfilment, and Witness**

Lecture 4

Alistair Wilson

Highland Theological College UHI

2 **'For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost'**

(Luke 19:1-10)

3 **Luke 19:1-10**

¹9 He entered Jericho and was passing through.

²There was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but he was not able because of the crowd, since he was a short man. ⁴So running ahead, he climbed up a sycamore tree to see Jesus, since he was about to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down because today it is necessary for me to stay at your house."

⁶So he quickly came down and welcomed him joyfully.

- (CSB) The Christian Standard Bible. Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers.

4 **Luke 19:1-10**

⁷All who saw it began to complain, "He's gone to stay with a sinful man."

⁸But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, I'll give half of my possessions to the poor, Lord. And if I have extorted anything from anyone, I'll pay back four times as much."

"Today salvation has come to this house," Jesus told him, "because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost."

- (CSB) The Christian Standard Bible. Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers.

5 **Setting**

- Jesus continues to travel towards Jerusalem (cf. 9:51; 18:31-34))
- Jesus was approaching Jericho (18:35). He has now arrived and is passing through (19:1)
- Compare surrounding narratives (marginalised gain access)
 - Persistent widow (18:1-8)
 - Pharisee and tax collector (18:9-14)
 - Parents with children (18:15-17)
- Contrast with Rich ruler (18:18-30)

6 **Zacchaeus Introduced**

- 'Behold' (note frequent references to 'seeing')
- Various details
 - Name
 - Social Position (ruler, 'tax collector'; positive, or negative?)
 - Financial Position (wealthy)
 - Intention (but why?)
 - Frustration (why is the crowd a barrier?)
 - Physical Stature (small; of 'little' consequence?)

7 **Zacchaeus Acts**

- Undignified!

- Purposeful
 - 'in order that he might see him'
 - Or 'he was seeking (*ezetei*) to see Jesus'

8 **Jesus Acts**

- Looks up
- Commands
 - Personal address
 - Urgency: 'come down quickly!'
 - Explanation: 'for'
 - 'Today'
 - Necessity: 'it is necessary' (*dei*)
 - 'for me to stay at your house'

9 **Zacchaeus Acts**

- Immediate and precise obedience
- Joyful reception

10 **'Everyone' reacts**

- They 'all' were grumbling (compare 5:30; 15:2)
- Quoted words
 - 'He has gone in to be the guest of a sinful man.'

11 **Zacchaeus Acts**

- Zacchaeus speaks to 'the Lord', not to the grumblers
 - 'Behold!'
 - Two commitments (both in present tense):
 - General: He gives half his possessions to the poor.
 - Specific: He compensates those he has wronged

12 **Jesus Pronounces**

- Jesus speaks to 'him', but also to the grumblers
 - 'Today'
 - Two pronouncements:
 - Specific: 'Salvation came to this house' (key theme in Luke)
 - General: The Son of man's 'mission' ('came')
 - To seek and to save
 - 'the lost [thing]'

13 **Conclusion**

- Luke's carefully-crafted narrative pulls together key themes from the surrounding narratives.
- The Zacchaeus narrative illustrates God's purpose to include the excluded through Jesus.
- Jesus again declares why he 'came' (using 'Son of Man' language): to seek and to save.