

Bible Study: Jesus and the Poor in Luke's Gospel

Focus Passage: Luke 19:1–10 (Zacchaeus)

Supplementary Texts: Luke 6:20; Luke 4:18–19; Luke 7:36–50; Luke 15:11–32; Luke 10:25–37

1. Remember

What are some of the characteristics used in Luke's Gospel to describe the "poor" or "disenfranchised"?

2. Understand

Why do you think Jesus consistently chooses to associate with people considered poor, sinful, or socially unacceptable? What does this show us about the nature of the kingdom of God?

3. Read

Re-read Luke 15:25–32 (the elder brother) alongside the crowd in Luke 19. What emotional or theological objections do they share? How can resentment or moral pride hinder someone's ability to rejoice in another's salvation?

4. Analyse

The sermon identified a pattern in Luke: Jesus engages with someone in need, followed by religious opposition. How does this pattern challenge our assumptions about what it means to be "righteous"? Who do you think the crowd represents today?

5. Evaluate

Zacchaeus responded to Jesus' welcome with radical generosity. What might a similarly transformed response look like in your life? In your family? In your church? Is there anything holding you back from responding in that way?

7. Understand

Jesus declared Zacchaeus to be a “son of Abraham.” Why is that significant in light of Zacchaeus’ past and the crowd’s disapproval? What does it mean for how we understand spiritual identity and belonging?

8. Apply

The sermon suggested that a life aimed at independence and control can sometimes keep us from recognising our need for grace. What areas of your life are driven by self-reliance? How might Jesus be inviting you to depend more on him?

Think of a practical way your Bible study group could “go and do likewise” this month—locally or globally—based on Jesus’ compassion for the poor. Make a plan and commit to one small action.