

The Discipler's Commentary

Answer Outline for the Discipler

Luke 19

19:1-10 – Jesus' encounter with Zaccheus

- *The discipler will need to explain somewhat the metropolis that Jericho became in Jesus' day. Chances are, the disciple may still have old Jericho in mind and envision the town that Joshua captured with the walls falling down. Explain also how Jericho was an important East-West trade route, and that it was an opportune place for the Romans to collect taxes. Then introduce Zaccheus.*

Zaccheus was a chief tax collector, wealthy and not popular

- *Explain why Zaccheus would have been so unpopular.*

Zaccheus takes actions consistent with fruits in keeping with repentance

- *When confronted by Jesus, Zaccheus changed his whole life around. Explain how he did that according to the commentary. Make sure the disciple can tie together Zaccheus's response to Jesus with "fruits in keeping with repentance," and how that relates back to John the Baptist.*

Zaccheus becomes a true son of Abraham

- *Explain why Jesus called Zaccheus a "son of Abraham" and what significance that had to Jesus' statement that "salvation has come to this house."*

19:11-27 – The parable of the nobleman, his servants, and their resources

- *See if the disciple can determine why Jesus told the parable of the nobleman who "went to a distant country to receive a kingdom." (The answer is in verse 11 where the people expected the kingdom of God to appear suddenly.)*

Purpose: the people's belief the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately

- *Ensure that the disciple understands what kind of kingdom the people were expecting to appear "immediately." Emphasize once again the concept of one Messiah, two comings. Make sure the disciple clearly understands the contrast of the two, and why Jesus first has to die on the cross on His first coming. (This is paramount to understanding the core of New Testament teaching—the death of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.)*

The parable clearly describes Jesus' expectations of His church

- *Have the disciple make application of the parable to Jesus' expectations of His church and His followers today. Ensure that the disciple begins thinking in terms of how he is planning on using his "mina." The discipler may need to help the disciple discover what his or her mina is.*

For rejecting Christ, there are severe consequences

- *It is important that the disciple understand that there are consequences for failing to take the "nobleman's" instructions seriously.*

19:28-40 – Jesus' "triumphal" entry into Jerusalem (on Palm Sunday)

- *The discipler will want to present some sort of a timeline as to the Jewish festivals. There are many resources on the Internet for annual Jewish festivals. (This can also be found at www.walkwiththeword.org.) Particularly point out the significance of Passover, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread which followed. Show where the Feast of Tabernacles is and its prophetic significance. For a greater impact, present these festivals in light of the Exodus (Exod. 12). This may help the disciple pull together the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion and His blood being shed on the cross as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).*

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem was prophesied by Zechariah 500 years earlier

- *Have the disciple find Zechariah's prophecy and see how it foretells Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and the significance of "mounted on a donkey."*

The people use palm branches (Gospel of John) consistent with a conquering king

- *This detail is not found in Luke, so have the disciple find it in the Gospel of John (12:13). Clarify for the disciple the significance of the people's reaction and how the palm branches demonstrated their wrong idea of why Jesus was entering into Jerusalem.*

The Pharisees tell Jesus to rebuke His disciples; they are declaring a king of the Jews

- *The discipler may need to explain the two reasons the Pharisees were so upset that the crowd was declaring Jesus the king of the Jews. Point out the irony here. Jesus really is the king of the Jews, but not in the way the Jewish crowds were anticipating or even hoping for.*

19:41-44 – Jesus weeps over His people

- *Describe for the disciple the type of weeping Jesus experienced. It wasn't just a shed tear, but great grieving. See if the disciple can determine why Jesus wept so severely before proceeding to the next fill-in.*

Jesus weeps because He knows the consequences His people will face for rejecting Him

- *Make sure the disciple understands that Jesus is not weeping for His people just because of what awaits them in the future, but more importantly, by rejecting Him as Messiah and the Son of God, they remain in their sins and will experience eternal consequences.*
- *Ask the disciple if he or she has ever wept over anyone who is rejecting Jesus. (Has the discipler done so?)*

All of what Jesus warns them about takes place in AD 70

- *Some historical background may be useful here.*

The temple will be destroyed, never to be raised again until the end times

- *The discipler must be careful not to get distracted by going into too much detail about end times events. It should be sufficient—depending on how much eschatological information the disciple already has—to inform the disciple that the temple will be rebuilt in the end times. We know that by the fact that the Antichrist will offer a sacrifice on its altar.*

19:45-48 – Jesus drives out the merchants and moneychangers in the temple

- *The discipler should present some background for the presence of the moneychangers and where in the temple compound they were operating. Show the disciple on a map, which can easily be downloaded from the Internet, or may be found at the back of many study Bibles.*
- *Describe how easily the moneychangers could take advantage of the common Jewish worshipper.*
- *Point out that the overturning of the tables of the moneychangers is the only time that Jesus expresses anger. Ask why.*
- *Ask the disciple how Jesus referred to the temple, and what God intended its main purpose to be. Have the disciple compare that to today's evangelical "worship service." Ask him or her what is missing?*

The merchants and moneychangers set up their tables in the Court of the Gentiles

- *The disciple may wonder why Gentiles were in the temple courtyard. It may need to be explained that there were many Gentiles who were proselytes. That is, these were Gentiles who had converted to Judaism and were allowed to offer sacrifices in the temple. Their access however was restricted to the Court of the Gentiles.*

Two reasons Jesus is angry: they have abused a place designated for Gentile worship

- *See above.*

they have turned God's holiness into commercialism

- *Ask the disciple how commercialism in the temple is so abhorrent to God. How does the issue of commercialism compare with Jesus' other teachings on money, possessions and greed?*

Ask the disciple if he or she can recognize any commercialism in the Christian church today.