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Reading: Luke ch 18 v 9-27, 31
Luke ch 19 v 10

Luke is not chronological in ordering but moral. He brings things together that we may learn lessons from them.

God is speaking to you and me through the scriptures. No one has the right to stand in front of God in his own merit. If people are ever going to be saved they have to realise there is nothing we have that is commendable to God. The actions of the tax gatherer suggests the idea of the mercy seat. It is only because of the cross that God can offer salvation to men and woman.

Whosoever - Nobody is too small or insignificant or of no consequence to God. God is deeply interested in everyone (John 3:16)

The glorious message of the Gospel is that God loves men and woman as individuals. Trust and confidence as a little child is all that is required for Salvation.

We sin because we are sinners. We behave according to our nature. All sinned in Adam. He poisoned the channel by which the population would come. (Romans 5:12)

We need to listen to word of God in simple terms and simply trust with the absolute confidence and simplicity of a child. There is nothing complicated about salvation.

God in his rich grace provides salvation as a gift. You do not buy a present you receive it. The Lord Jesus Christ paid the price at the cross. All you have to do is hear the Gospel and receive it.

We are paupers in the sight of God.

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind”
(Matt 22:37)

The Young Rich Man teaches us that we have to be prepared to let go of everything and put salvation first. Anything else is an idol. Idolatry keeps us from Christ and God's Salvation..

Isaac was the thing that was greatest in Abraham's life. He was to put it on the altar for God (Gen 22). This also painted a picture of sacrifice.

It is totally impossible for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle. What is not possible with men is possible with God. The purpose of the Lord Jesus Christ coming was to bear away the sin of the world through the sacrifice of himself. The righteous claims of God's throne have been satisfied. There is a mighty victor in resurrection power saying “Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest” (Matt 11:28)

The Blind Man

Nobody needed to tell him he was blind and in need. The crowd is a big thing in some people's lives. They are concerned about what people think of them. This man realised his need so greatly that he cried out all the louder when the people tried to silence him. He was asking for mercy - that is all we can ask for the mercy of God. We will never deserve it but that the Lord Jesus Christ died for us.

Zacchaeus would have been a vile man hated and despised. Society is full of people like that. Nobody is too bad to be saved. He was determined to see Christ. Maybe he did not want Christ to see him as he was. God knows us through and through. There is no hiding from God.

Zacchaeus got up the tree. He was surprised that the Lord stopped and called him. There are no hiding

places from the God of heaven.

Zacchaeus had a choice to make stay up the tree or come down. He had a choice to think about. He made haste came down and got the blessing. Responding to the Lord Jesus Christ will guarantee the blessing. Refusal to obey brings the discipline of God: “now is the accepted time” (2 Cor 6:3); “Harden not your heart” (Heb 4:7)