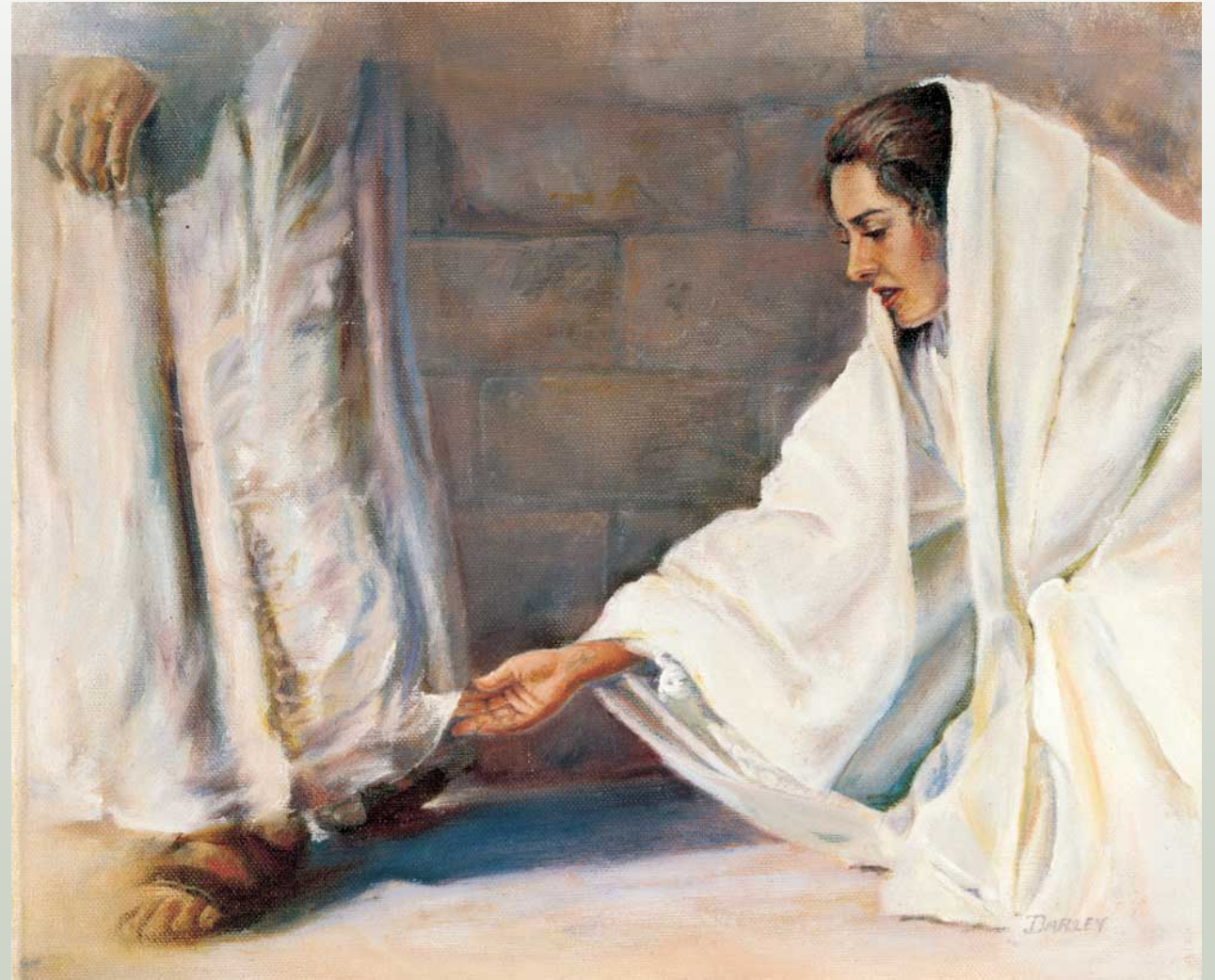


The Mission of Jesus

Luke 19: 10.



“The Son of Man has come to seek
and to save that which was lost.”
Luke 19: 10.



I. Introduction

Jesus, as His name indicates, came to live among us and to save those who are lost. His ministry was exclusively focused on doing good, healing those in suffering, and sharing the good news of eternal life. What a wonderful presentation of the true character of God!

(Yeshua, related to the name Joshua, from the root " YSH' ", to rescue, to deliver, meaning YHWH saves)



“Self-sufficiency is the enemy of salvation. If you are self-sufficient, you have no need of God. If you have no need of God, you do not seek Him. If you do not seek Him, you will not find Him.”

William Nicholson,
Shadowlands



“It is only Jesus Christ who has thrown light on life and immortality through the gospel; and because He has done so, and has enabled us by His atoning death and intercession to make the most of this discovery, His gospel is, for all who will, a power of God unto Salvation.”

Henry Parry Liddon



“No man is excluded from calling upon God, the gate of salvation is set open unto all men: neither is there any other thing which keepeth us back from entering in, save only our own unbelief.”
John Calvin



“Sin came through the pride of Lucifer and
salvation came through the humility of Jesus.”
Zac Poonen



“Faith then, in its relation to Salvation, is that confidence by which we accept it as a free gift from the Saviour, and is the only possible way in which the gift of God could be appropriated.”

Mark Hopkins



“To attempt to pay for salvation with church membership, prayers, or good deeds is an insult to Christ, who paid the full price – and is a rejection of the gift of God’s grace.”
Dave Hunt



“We sinned for no reason but an incomprehensible lack of love, and He saved us for no reason but an incomprehensible excess of love.”
Peter Kreeft, *Jesus-Shock*



II. Context



The structure of the Gospel of Luke

In	1: 1 – 4	Search for Authentic Narrative about Jesus
1	1: 5 – 2: 50	Incarnation (Prophecies, John the Baptist and Jesus)
2	2: 50 – 4: 30	Nazareth (Baptism, Temptation, and Ministry in Nazareth)
3	4: 31 – 7 : 50	Capernaum (Headquarters of Jesus for his Ministry in Galilee)
4	8: 1 – 9: 50	Every City and Village
5	9: 51 – 19: 27	Trip to Jerusalem (Jesus' Ministry on the road, Samaria and Judea)
6	19: 28 – 21: 38	Jerusalem (Fulfillment of Jesus' Mission)
7	22: 1 – 23: 56	Jesus' Passion, Death, and Burial
8	24: 1 – 24: 53	Jesus' Resurrection, Post-resurrection Teaching, and Ascension

On His road to Jerusalem,
(Section #5 of the Gospel of
Luke) Jesus is described as
someone who is aware of his
suffering to come. The last
part of this section, (18: 1 –
19: 27) confirms that Jesus is
consciously facing rejection,
passion, and death.



RECEIVING REJECTION (Luke 18: 1 – 19: 27)

- A** 18: 1 – 8 WICKED JUDGE and Widow
- B** 18: 9 - 14 PUBLICAN went home justified
- C** 18: 15 - 17 Children REBUKED to come to Jesus
 - I** 18: 18 - 23 RICH YOUNG RULER (You will receive treasure in heaven)
 - II** 18: 24 - 29 PETER (He shall receive many times more)
 - III** 18: 30 - 34 JESUS (The Son of man will receive mockery, insults,...)
- C'** 18: 35 - 43 A Blind Man REBUKED to see Jesus
- B'** 19: 1 - 10 Salvation coming to the house of a CHIEF-PUBLICAN
- A'** 19: 11 - 27 Good Judge and WICKED SERVANT

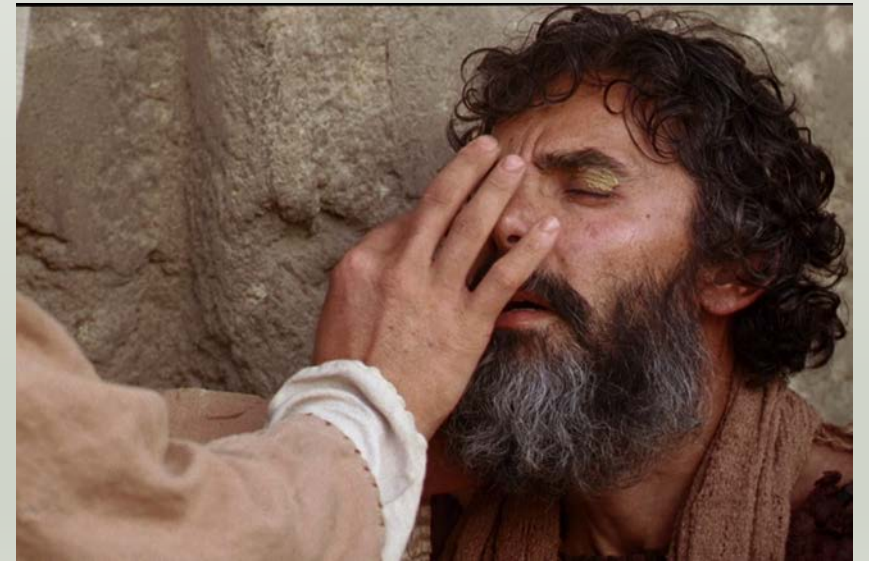
There is a parallel between the parable of widow's perseverance in front of a wicked judge, (18: 1 – 8), and the parable of the mines (19: 11 – 27), where another judge, the righteous one is dealing with the actions and behaviors of human beings. The contrast between the widow and the wicked servant is underlining the wrong attitude of religious leaders.



The parable of Jesus about two worshipers has a powerful application. In fact, Pharisee is not justified, despite of his well organized life, generosity, and influence in the society. In addition to the teaching of Jesus, uplifting the honesty and humility of the publican, Luke creates a parallel between this text and Zacchaeus, who is presented as the 'chief publican' (in original). Thus, the publican came home (oikos) justified (18: 14), and the salvation came to the house (oikos) of Zacchaeus (19: 9.).



It is obvious that children were rebuked in Jesus' presence. It could be that people had some good intentions of protecting Jesus from noise or from exhaustion. However, Jesus paid attention to those who were rejected. There is also a parallelism between the rejection of children (18: 15 – 17) and the movement of the crowd trying to calm the blind man who persistently made a lot of noise (18: 35 – 43). What a wonderful reminder that nobody can preclude us from the blessings we find in God's presence.



The editorial work of Luke helps us to understand better the obstacles of Jesus to teach His disciples the true meaning of His ministry. This presentation of events in group of three is fairly common in his book (three parables for the lost (sheep, coin, son), the parable of the Good Samaritan (Priest, Levite, and Samaritan), etc. In this text we see at the beginning the reach young ruler with the promise of Jesus: "you will receive treasure in heaven". Peter has even a better offer: "He shall receive many times more..." The third text is just confirming that in Jerusalem, the end of His destination, Jesus will receive only suffering, mockery, and insults. With only one goal: to save the lost.



III. Ministry of salvation of God among us



1. God is always seeking for us



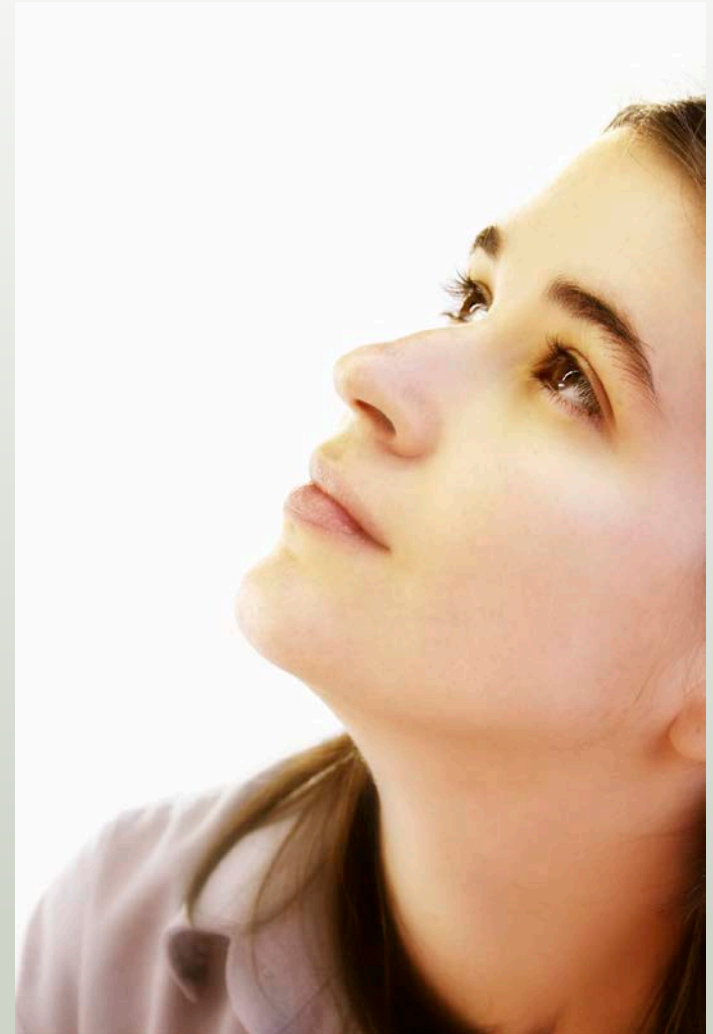
“There is no surprise more magical than the surprise of being loved. It is God's finger on man's shoulder.”
Charles Morgan



“We are never alone. Not when the night is darkest, the wind coldest, the world seemingly most indifferent. For this is still the time God chooses.”
Taylor Caldwell



“Grace is an attribute of God shown to undeserving human beings. We did not seek after it, but it was sent in search of us. God rejoices to bestow this grace upon everyone who hungers for it. To everyone He presents terms of mercy, not because we are worthy, but because we are so utterly unworthy. Our need is the qualification which gives us the assurance that we shall receive this gift.”
Ellen G. White, *God’s Amazing Grace*, p. 10.



“God is seeking for us more truly than we are seeking for Him. And if the mother is seeking her child, and the child its mother, it will be a very wide desert where they will not meet. 'The Father seeketh such to worship Him,' that is – the divine activity is going about the world, searching for the heart that turns to Him, and it cannot but be that they that seek Him shall find Him, or 'shall be found of Him.' Open the windows, and you cannot keep out the sunshine; open your lungs and you cannot keep out the air.”
Alexander Maclaren



“The Saviour watches for a response to His offers of love and forgiveness with more tender compassion than that which moves the heart of an earthly parent to forgive a wayward son. “Return unto Me, and I will return unto you.” Malachi 3:7. But if one persistently refuses that tender love, he will at last be left in darkness. The heart that has long slighted God’s mercy becomes hardened in sin, no longer susceptible to the influence of the grace of God.” Ellen G. White, From Eternity Past, p. 103.



2. God is able to save



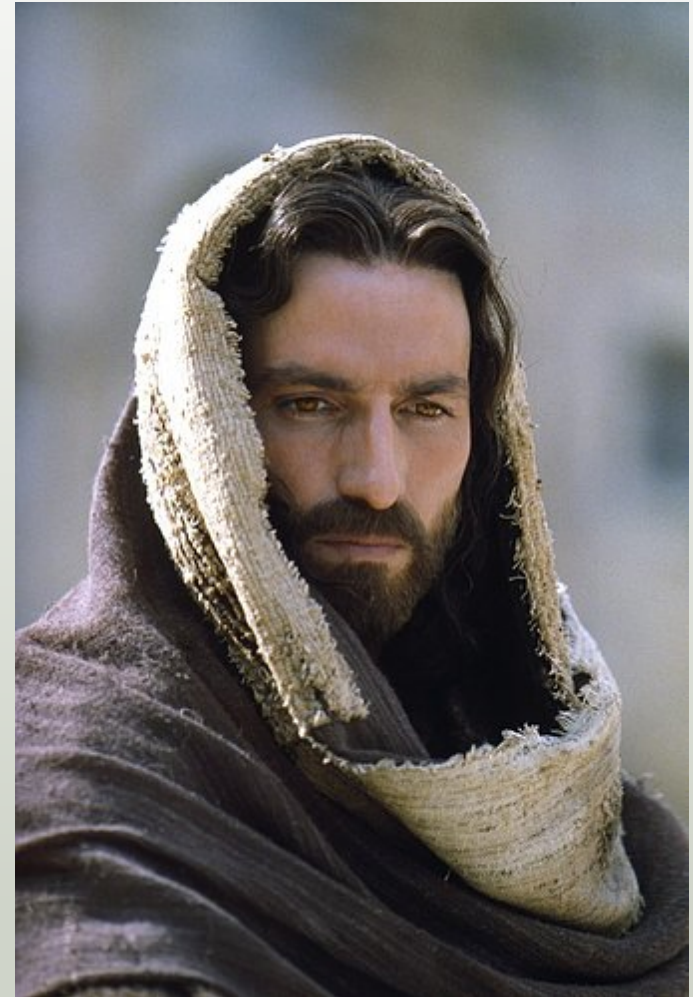
“God is able to save us completely and forever. No matter how messed up you are, or how far you’ve fallen into sin, God is able to save you completely (and forever) if you will surrender to Him with all your heart.”

Gary Linton



“In reality no man is able to surrender to Christ without God doing work in his heart first, and as God does the impossible in our hearts, we must respond by faith. Faith is to take God at His word, to claim His promise, and yield to His power. God is able to do more than you can imagine with a yielded life in His almighty hand. God is able to save you from your sins, change your life, cause you to be selfless, God-dependent, and live a godly life that pleases Him for His glory!”

Chatlie Haddad



"All who have a sense of their deep soul poverty, who feel that they have nothing good in themselves, may find righteousness and strength by looking unto Jesus.... He bids you exchange your poverty for the riches of His grace. We are not worthy of God's love, but Christ, our surety, is worthy, and is abundantly able to save all who shall come unto Him. Whatever may have been your past experience, however discouraging your present circumstances, if you will come to Jesus just as you are, weak, helpless, and despairing, our compassionate Savior will meet you a great way off, and will throw about you His arms of love and His robe of righteousness."
Ellen G. White, *God's Amazing Grace*, p. 9.



What is the process of salvation?

“We have no righteousness of our own with which to meet the claims of the law of God. But Christ has made away of escape for us. He lived on earth amid trials and temptations such as we have to meet. He lived a sinless life. He died for us, and now He offers to take our sins and give us His righteousness. If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your Saviour, then, sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are accounted righteous. Christ’s character stands in place of your character, and you are accepted of God just as if you had not sinned.”
Ellen G. White, Steps to Christ, p. 62.



We could not take one step in the pursuit of holiness if God in His grace had not first delivered us from the dominion of sin and brought us into union with His risen Son. Salvation is by grace and sanctification is by grace."

Jerry Bridges, *The Discipline of Grace*



3. Without Jesus we are lost



“Amazing grace, how sweet
the sound, That saved a
wretch like me I once was
lost, but now am found was
blind but now I see.”
John Newton’s AMAZING
GRACE



“The Lord can do nothing toward the recovery of man until, convinced of his own weakness, and stripped of all self-sufficiency, he yields himself to the control of God. Then he can receive the gift that God is waiting to bestow. From the soul that feels his need, nothing is withheld. He has unrestricted access to Him in whom all fullness dwells.”

Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 299, 300.



“We need God as
much in the calm
as in the storm.”
Jack Hyles



"A new word has entered our vocabulary called "escapism." We Americans are trying to escape from reality. We are taking dope, drink, tranquilizing pills, entertainment, and intent upon soul-forgetfulness. People flee from themselves to become lost in the clouds... We are so taken up with our money-making, so taken up with the amusements and places and comforts of modern American life that we don't realize that the forces of evil are closing in round about us. Unless we can turn to God and have His help, we are done for as a nation and as a people... I think it ought to be something that will set an example to the world and say to the world, "We have an answer. We can solve our problems at the foot of the cross as a community, and we have found an answer to our individual needs in Jesus Christ."

Billy Graham, 1968

“Jesus did not count heaven
a place to be desired while
we were lost.”

Ellen G. White, *The Ministry
of Healing*, p. 105.



V. Conclusion



“Salvation is like the
sunshine. It belongs to the
whole world.”

Ellen G. White,
The Desire of Ages, p. 307.



“In the cross
is Salvation, in the
cross is eternal life.”
Thomas à Kempis,
Imitation of Christ,
bk.2, ch.12, section
2. c.1413



“The waters of Salvation, welling forth from the mercy-seat above, have descended in copious floods to refresh and bless the earth. And will you refuse to drink of the river of life which flows full and free before you, proffering health and gladness to your famished soul, because you cannot discover every thing pertaining to its source, far, far away in the recesses of the Eternal Mind?”
G. B. Ide, Dictionary of Burning Words of Brilliant Writers, 1895, p. 527.



“How much more should you make sure that you have “put on” the Lord Jesus Christ? This is your eternal Salvation we are talking about, so obey the admonition to make your calling and election sure. There's nothing more important than your eternal Salvation.”
Kirk Cameron et al (2011),
in *Conquer Your Fear, Share Your Faith*. p.189.



“Jesus knew the wants of the soul. Pomp, riches, and honor cannot satisfy the heart. “If any man thirst, let him come unto Me.” The rich, the poor, the high, the low, are alike welcome. He promises to relieve the burdened mind, to comfort the sorrowing, and to give hope to the despondent. Many of those who heard Jesus were mourners over disappointed hopes, many were nourishing a secret grief, many were seeking to satisfy their restless longing with the things of the world and the praise of men; but when all was gained, they found that they had toiled only to reach a broken cistern, from which they could not quench their thirst. Amid the glitter of the joyous scene they stood, dissatisfied and sad. That sudden cry, “If any man thirst,” startled them from their sorrowful meditation, and as they listened to the words that followed, their minds kindled with a new hope. The Holy Spirit presented the symbol before them until they saw in it the offer of the priceless gift of salvation...

“... The cry of Christ to the thirsty soul is still going forth, and it appeals to us with even greater power than to those who heard it in the temple on that last day of the feast. The fountain is open for all. The weary and exhausted ones are offered the refreshing draught of eternal life. Jesus is still crying, “If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink.” “Let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.” “Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” Revelation 22:17; John 4:14.
Ellen G. White, *Desire of Ages*, p. 454.

“It would be well if those occupying positions of trust in our institutions would remember that they are to be representatives of Jesus. True goodness, holiness, love, compassion for tempted souls must be revealed in their lives. Christ gave Himself to the world, that He might save those who would believe in Him. Shall not we, partakers of this great salvation, value the souls for whom He gave His life! Let us labor with a perseverance and energy proportionate to the value Christ places upon His blood-bought heritage. Human souls have cost too much to be trifled with, or treated with harshness or indifference.”
Ellen G. White, Christian Leadership. p. 7.



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Luke 19: 10.

