

The Beggar & The Climber • Bible Study Guide

Jesus is on His final journey to the cross, walking the road through Jericho. In the space of a few hundred yards He meets two men who could not be more different, yet both are lost and both need Him desperately.

Read Luke 18:35–43 (ESV)

As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. Immediately he recovered his sight and followed him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Notice the details:

- He is blind, broke, and socially invisible.
- He hears Jesus is passing by and cries out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”
- The crowd rebukes him and tells him to be quiet—he cries out even louder.
- Jesus stops (the Creator of the universe stops!) and asks a personal question: “What do you want me to do for you?”
- The man is healed instantly because of his persistent faith.

Now move just a little farther down the same road.

Read Luke 19:1–10 (ESV)

He entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus... And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house... For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Notice the contrasts:

- Rich vs. poor
- Powerful vs. powerless
- Hated because he could see too much vs. hated because he could see nothing
- Sitting by the road vs. climbing a tree
- Jesus asks the beggar a question vs. Jesus calls Zacchaeus by name and invites Himself over

Yet both men are desperate for Jesus. Both take bold action with what they have. Both receive salvation the moment they respond. The same crowd that tried to silence the beggar now grumbles because Jesus went to a sinner’s house. The crowd is almost always wrong.

Jesus gives the connecting verse in Luke 19:10 (ESV):

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

No one is too low for Him to lift, and no one is too high for Him to reach. He stops for beggars and calls climbers by name.

Questions to think about

- Which of these two men do you identify with most right now, and why?
- What “crowd voices” are trying to hush your cry or mock your effort to get to Jesus?
- What bold action (crying out, climbing, coming down) is the Holy Spirit asking of you today?
- Who is the “Zacchaeus” in your life that Jesus wants to dine with?