

Turning a Meal into Ministry
The B.L.E.S.S. Series – Luke 19:1-10
May 24, 2026

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Luke 19:1-10

- ¹ He entered Jericho and was passing through.
- ² And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich.
- ³ And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature.
- ⁴ So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way.
- ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today."
- ⁶ So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully.
- ⁷ And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner."
- ⁸ And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."
- ⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham.
- ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

MAIN THEME

In a world where people are more connected digitally than ever before, they are also more disconnected relationally. We're still eating—but we're no longer gathering. The table, once a place of connection, has often been replaced by convenience and isolation.

But Jesus shows us a different way. Throughout the Gospels, we repeatedly find him at a table—sharing meals, building relationships, and changing lives. He understood something we often forget: a meal is never just a meal. It is an opportunity for ministry.

In Luke 19, Jesus intentionally pursues Zacchaeus, a man rejected by society. He doesn't wait for an invitation—he invites himself. Why? Because Jesus knows that transformation often happens in the context of relationship. And in this case, that relationship is built around a table.



This passage reminds us that we are not alone in reaching people. Jesus is already at work before we arrive. He is preparing hearts, arranging circumstances, and drawing people to himself. Our role is simply to step in with obedience and faith.

The call is clear: don't overcomplicate it. Ministry doesn't require perfection—it requires availability. When we open our lives, even in simple ways like sharing a meal, God uses it to accomplish eternal purposes. One meal really can change everything.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

1. Jesus Is Already at Work Before You Arrive

Luke 19:3–5; John 6:44; Acts 16:14

- What does it reveal about Jesus that he knew Zacchaeus by name?
- How does it change your perspective to know God is already working in people's lives?
- Why do we sometimes feel like sharing our faith depends entirely on us?
- How can trusting God's work ahead of you give you more confidence?

2. Gospel Hospitality Requires Stepping Into Discomfort

Luke 19:5–7; Luke 15:1–2; Matthew 9:10–13

- Why was it shocking that Jesus chose to dine with Zacchaeus?
- Who are the "Zacchaeus" types in your life right now?
- What fears or hesitations keep you from engaging people who are different from you?
- What might it look like for you to cross a relational or cultural barrier this week?

3. Keep It Simple — Ministry Happens in the Ordinary

Luke 19:5–6; Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:2

- Why do we tend to overcomplicate hospitality?
- How does keeping things simple remove barriers to obedience?
- What is one "normal" way you could share a meal or time with someone?
- How can everyday moments become ministry opportunities?

4. One Meal Can Change Everything

Luke 19:8–10; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:8–9

- What evidence do we see that Zacchaeus' life was truly changed?
- Why is transformation the goal—not just connection?
- How does this story encourage you about the potential impact of small actions?
- When have you seen God use a simple moment to bring spiritual change?



5. Take the First Step (B.L.E.S.S. — Eat)

Luke 19:5; Colossians 4:2–6; 1 Peter 4:9

- Why is sharing a meal such a powerful way to build relationships?
- What practical step can you take this week to invite someone?
- Who is one person God may be prompting you to reach out to?
- What would it look like for you to “pray, then step”?

PRAY

Dear Lord, thank you for showing us that you pursue people with intentional love. Thank you that you are already at work in the hearts of those around us. Forgive us for the times we hesitate, overthink, or stay comfortable instead of stepping out in faith.

Help us to see the opportunities right in front of us—to open our lives, our tables, and our hearts to others. Give us courage to step into uncomfortable spaces and trust that you are there ahead of us. Teach us to keep things simple and to focus on relationships, not perfection.

Use even the smallest moments—coffee, lunch, a conversation—to accomplish your greater purposes. Help us to be faithful in the ordinary, knowing that you can use it to bring about extraordinary change.

And Lord, would you lead us to that one person this week? Give us boldness to take the first step and trust you with the results. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- Luke 15:1–2 — Jesus eats with sinners
- Matthew 9:10–13 — Mercy over sacrifice
- Romans 12:13 — Practice hospitality
- Hebrews 13:2 — Welcoming strangers
- Colossians 4:5–6 — Wise and gracious conversations

NEXT WEEK’S BIG IDEA

B.L.E.S.S. — Serve

