

Salvation

Chapter 1

Lesson 2

Introduction

In the previous lesson we looked at a general image of the aspects related with salvation and the new birth and we focused on a few questions and a study table about Queen Saba's visit to Solomon's palace as homework.

The fame of Solomon's wisdom had reached this woman who could not resist the curiosity to see Solomon personally and test his wisdom.

This encounter, as we said is an example of the encounter that a person has with Jesus, even though Jesus is greater than Solomon. He himself attests against those who reject his wisdom **Matthew 12:42**. *The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.*

Don't you think it's interesting, the fact that we, just as the queen of Saba, one day heard about Jesus and such was our curiosity that we came directly to him to delight in his wisdom?

That's how it was. We came to Him, we opened our heart, our questions were answered, we recognized him as our savior, we offered him everything, and received abundant life.

What we have given does not compare to all that we have received, because Christ's wisdom continues to flow more and more every day. Paul presents it this way in Colossians 2:1-3 *For I would that ye knew what great conflict I have for you, and for them at Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh; That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

Paul tells us about riches of full understanding; the ministries of God the father and of Christ, and these treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ our beloved savior Jesus Christ.

Make a list of events and circumstances in which you have been filled with the riches of full understanding through Christ to make significant decisions in the growth of your faith and relationship with your peers. These wise decisions could have been taken in the context of your marriage/romantic relationship, in your work place, your relationship with your brothers from church, your devotion toward God or commitment to depart from sin.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Name 5 things in which you need to grow spiritually and use the wisdom of Christ.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

In today's lesson we are going to study a sinful man's encounter with Christ. In this biblical passage salvation, the difficulty of salvation, its implications, the evidence of salvation, and the blessings of salvation are defined for us.

Central truth: Salvation raises essential truths that should govern the mind of the man that is converted to Christ. These truths are aligned with the concept that man has a great problem that separates him from God (sin). In turn man needs to know that this problem has been resolved by Christ in the cross, and as a result of that work of grace, man should deposit all his faith and trust in that work which was made in his favor for the cleansing and forgiveness of sins. Luke 19:1-10

Objective: to teach and understand that Christ came to forgive and to save sinners.

Layout of the class:

No matter the social class of living men, men in the world laugh while crying inside because sin affects the human heart. The heart generates all things that defile a man. The consequences that sin produces are pain, misery, loneliness, anguish and despair. That's the case of the famous entertainer Garrick. Even with the fame he had, he experienced great dissatisfaction; which is the case when God is absent from the heart.

Read Poem

Cry Laughing

Seeing English actor Garrick, the people began to applaud and tell him, *"You're the funniest in the world, and the happiest."* and the comedian laughed. Victims of spleen (representing the state of melancholy) High Lords in their darkest and heaviest nights went to the king of the actors and traded their spleen for laughter.

One day a gloomy man came before a famous doctor;

"I suffer" he said- "an evil as horrifying as the paleness of my face. Nothing causes me delight or attraction. I don't care about my name or my luck and my only illusion is that of death."

-Doctor: Travel and distract yourself.

-I've traveled so much.

- Doctor: Seek literature.

- I have read.

- Doctor: Find a woman to love you.

- I am loved.

- Doctor: Acquire a title.

- I've been born a noble.

- Doctor: Perhaps you are poor.

- I have riches.

-Doctor: Does flattery please you?

-I hear so much of it.

-Doctor: What do you have as far as family?

-My sadness.

-Doctor: Do you visit the cemetery?

-Very often.

Doctor: Have you witnesses of your present life?

- Yes, but I do not let them impose yoke on me, I call the dead my friends and the living, I call them my

tormentors.

- Doctor: This evil has me puzzled. Take this advice prescription today. Just watch Garrick. He can cure you.

- Garrick?

- Doctor: Yes, Garrick. The most reluctant and austere society seeks him anxiously. Everyone who sees him is dying of laughter. He has an amazing artistic grace.

-Will he make me laugh?

- Doctor: Yes, I swear it. What is bothering you?

And the patient said. "I cannot heal me - I'm Garrick. Change my prescription."

There are many who, tired of life, sick with grief, dying of boredom, make others laugh like this suicidal actor, who found no remedy for himself!

Oh how much we cry while we are laughing. The soul cries when the face laughs. If faith dies, if calm flees, if all we step on are thistles, the soul throws a sad bolt of lightning into the face of the storm.

This lesson presents us with an incredibly rich man called Zacchaeus in Luke 19: 1-10

For a human mind there was no space to doubt that Zacchaeus felt happiness having such a fortune. Zacchaeus was rich, however:

- The love of money was no solution to his spiritual problems and inner pain. Despite his wealth this man was rejected by the people. He lived with no friends, and he did not have peace - The love of money had made him popular but just as Garrick, popularity did not eliminate the sadness in his soul. The love of money had placed him in a social position. He was chief of the publicans. It seemed that charging people much more than the required amount of taxes and taking advantage of his position would make him a satisfied man, but no. He was the most miserable man. He was a thief. He charged taxes for Rome and stole from his own Jewish brothers. How many lives, poor men scammed must have been on Zacchaeus' list. Despite that, this scammer, this extortionist, this vile sinner, this spiritually dead man was chosen by god to be given life:

V. 5 *Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.*

There was no good work in Zacchaeus that he could accredit to having the privilege of the presence of God in his house, only the grace of Christ.

What does grace mean?

Write down Ephesians 2: 8,9 and then highlight the verses in your bible.

V.9,10. *And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

Who had come to Zacchaeus, house? Jesus. If salvation has come to your home; Jesus is that salvation!

Salvation is a divine person named Jesus Christ.

Salvation

Salvation is freedom from a personal and imminent danger. Naturally we can illustrate this with the incident when Peter began to sink while walking on water. He called out "Lord save me!" the hand of Jesus Christ was extended towards him and put him to safety in such a way that this act depicts the fundamental idea of salvation as the person of salvation.

(Mt. 14:30).

When man lives as slave to sin he cannot free himself from his own chains. Zacchaeus lived this way. Zacchaeus needed help from a savior to be set free, but he had an obstacle to defeat.

The Difficulty of Salvation

People were stopping him from seeing Jesus. Many times people are the first obstacle when we want to draw near to Jesus. Many times we are defeated with embarrassment, with prejudice, with complexes from the people that surround us and we say: I have no remedy, I am short in spiritual stature, I am a sinner. People who know me know that I am not worth even two cents because I've descended so low in morale and society. But we must imitate Zacchaeus, who being stopped by the multitude from seeing Jesus climbed a sycamore tree to see him. He put himself in a place where he could see Jesus and where Jesus could see him. This should motivate us to likewise make ourselves accessible to God in such a way that we can see him and he can likewise see us. Many times Satan uses discouragement from other people to stop us from coming to Christ, but despite that we should climb to the mountain of prayer and congregate to worship and strengthen our faith.

Difficulties will come but we will be victorious in the name of the Lord and we will rise up on the tree of spiritual life.

List other things that can impede you from coming to Christ.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

The Implications of Salvation

Zacchaeus went up but Jesus commanded him to come down because in the world of God things are run a different way. First you have to come down to then go up (2 Chronicles 7:14)

God resists human pride. The Scripture tells us that all men have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God and because of this, deserves the punishment of God. This is why we should all come to God recognizing our sin and misery. Miqueas 6:8

Complete the following verse.

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good;
 and what doth the Lord _____,
 but to do _____, and to _____,
 and to _____?

In Zacchaeus there wasn't just a disposition to recognize that he was a sinful man but also a resolution to abandon his life of sin and accept a new life with different patterns.

Note In the following table how human wisdom contrasts with God's wisdom.

Worldly Wisdom And God's Wisdom

World Logic	Order of God	Divine Advice
Isaiah 5:20	1 Corinthians 1:25-29	For living in victory
Go up, even if you have to trample on... He who gives what he has becomes a beggar If you surrender, you will fall in the end If you don't enjoy the world, you're not living Procure to be served by everyone Love friends and hate the one who harms you Always think of the uncertain future Give to receive something in return Think wrong and you will be right Think of yourself first God says help yourself and I will help you (... Quote does not appear in the bible..)	Go down if you want to move up Lose to win in the end Surrender everything to Christ Say no to the world and you will live Become a servant of everyone Love everyone: friends and enemies Trust God with your present and future Give because of your love of God Never think ill of anyone Think with preference towards others The Lord says: u will always help you DO NOT FEAR DO NOT FEAR DO NOT FEAR	Luke 14: 7-11 Luke 14: 12-14 Mark 10: 28-30 & 16:25 James 4:4. 1John 2:15-17 Matthew 20:26-28 Matthew 5: 38-48 Matthew 6: 25-34. 1 Peter 5:7 2 Corinthians 9:6-10 Matthew 7:1-5, Zach. 7:8-10 Philippians 2:3-4 Isaiah 41:10 Appears 366 times in the bible

When we are saved from the Government and Dominion of sin the following appears:

Evidence of Salvation

Salvation is not demonstrated with words but with actions consequent to the faith that is received. This is true faith. Zacchaeus demonstrated that he had been saved from the dominion of sin by giving what used to be his idol, a stolen fortune. He demonstrated with acts that his conversion was genuine; trying to mend the damage

he caused. Jesus Christ brought him to the place of repentance and recognition and an act of conscience brought him to return what he had stolen.

These works are done by God in the heart of man. These works cannot be faked.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

The Grace of God also manifests in our commitment to depart from impurity and worldly desires.

Titus 2:11-12

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

The most marvelous thing about salvation is that the one who produces the wanting as much as the doing according to his divine will is God through the person of Christ in us.

The Blessing of Salvation

The biggest blessing of salvation is the gift of being able to receive the most important guest that has ever existed in all of history into our homes, Christ our beloved savior. This guest is a providing guest. Christ provides love peace, joy, comfort, unity, and this brings abundant blessings to a home.

Jesus stopped by to do well in Zacchaeus house and immediately saw the change in his attitude towards God and his peers.

Zacchaeus surrendered assets and received greater assets: eternal life, forgiveness, restoration, adoption, regeneration, justification and salvation!

Conclusion

What bliss that we have been reached by God for salvation and that we have been rescued from a vain life. May we value his grace and forgiveness and not be defeated by the mirage of temptation that the adversary may put in our path. May we never trade eternal things for the temporary things of this world.