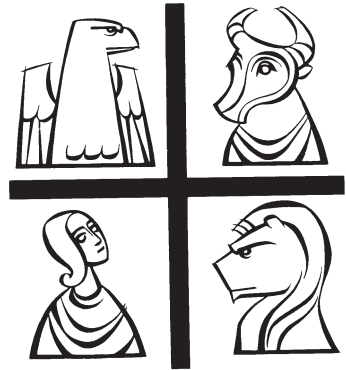


Reading Luke in Lent

Gospel of Luke 19:1 - 27



Jesus and Zacchaeus

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.'

The Parable of the Ten Minas

11 As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem,
and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately.
12 He said therefore,
'A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return.
13 Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them,
"Engage in business until I come."
14 But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying,
"We do not want this man to reign over us."
15 When he returned, having received the kingdom,
he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him,
that he might know what they had gained by doing business.
16 The first came before him, saying, "Lord, your mina has made ten minas more."
17 And he said to him, "Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little,
you shall have authority over ten cities."
18 And the second came, saying, "Lord, your mina has made five minas."
19 And he said to him, "And you are to be over five cities."
20 Then another came, saying,
"Lord, here is your mina, which I kept laid away in a handkerchief;
21 for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man.
You take what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow."

22 He said to him, “I will condemn you with your own words, you wicked servant!
You knew that I was a severe man, taking what I did not deposit
and reaping what I did not sow?
23 Why then did you not put my money in the bank,
and at my coming I might have collected it with interest?”
24 And he said to those who stood by,
“Take the mina from him, and give it to the one who has the ten minas.”
25 And they said to him, “Lord, he has ten minas!”
26 “I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not,
even what he has will be taken away.
27 But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them,
bring them here and slaughter them before me.”

Reflection

In the last section we heard about tax collectors, the humble and the least, and the difficulty of the rich entering the kingdom. In this section we meet Zacchaeus, a rich tax collector, who is small and humble enough to climb a tree to see Jesus. He fulfills the demands that Jesus made of the rich ruler by giving away his wealth to the poor. Jesus announces that salvation has come to his house. It is possible for the camel to go through the eye of a needle.

As Jesus approaches Jerusalem expectations are rising. The blind man near Jericho in the last section had acclaimed Jesus as king, ‘Son of David’. When Jesus reaches Jerusalem his disciples will acclaim him as king. The parable Jesus tells has two elements: a just king whom the people wish to reject and his servants who are to engage in the business of the kingdom. The parable is a warning for those who do not recognise the kingdom which Jesus is a sign of and which he will initiate at his second coming.

- What gifts have you been given for the building up of the kingdom?

Prayer

Just and merciful God,
true Lord of every house,
sure delight of every heart,
come into our midst today
to speak your word and satisfy our hunger.

Enable us to see you clearly,
to welcome you with joy,
and to give justice and mercy
a place in our lives.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.
Amen.