

God Loves The Unlovable

Text : **Luke 19: 1-10 & Phil. 2: 3-8**

A. Our last lesson observed that Jesus viewed tomorrow as the devil's day.

**S#1.
S#2.**

1. We observed that Jesus lived with a sense of urgency.
 - a. He frequently used phrases like “**We must.**”

John 9: 4 – We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. **S#3.**
 - b. His ministry was characterized by the word “**immediately.**”
 - c. His plea was repent now for the kingdom of God is “**at hand.**”
2. We saw that Jesus clearly wants for us to live in awareness of His deadline.
 - a. God does not tell us when He will end it because He wants us permanently ready.
 - b. God wants for us to feel the urgency of reaching people with the gospel **BEFORE...**

B. Why would God care ? How could God love such unlovable beings as sinful men? They are repulsive to Him !

S#4.

1. All who seek righteousness are repulsed by sin, **for example :**

II Pet. 2: 7-8 and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men **8** (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds), **S#5.**
2. God is even more vexed by evil.

Psa. 5: 4-6 You are not a God who takes pleasure in evil; with you the wicked cannot dwell. **5** The arrogant cannot stand in your presence; you hate all who do wrong. **6** You destroy those who tell lies; bloodthirsty and deceitful men the Lord abhors. (cf- **Prov. 6: 16 ff**) **S#6.**

C. God will not even have contact with sinful people.

1. He will not answer their prayers.

Isa. 59: 1-2 Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short that it cannot save; Nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. **2** But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear. **S#7.**
2. God considers sinners who are outside of Christ to be His enemies.

Rom. 5: 9-10 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. **10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, **S#8.**
3. Our holy God is repulsed by sin and will not allow Himself to be exposed to it.

4. God will eternally exile the wicked from His presence and from His blessings.

II Thess. 1: 8-9 in flaming fire, **8** dealing out retribution to those who do not **S#9.** know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. **9** These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

D. How is it then that we have come to understand that God loves sinners ? S#10.

1. Jesus made His love conditional on obedience.

a. **John 15: 8-10** – My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and **S#11.** so prove to be My disciples. **9** "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. **10** " If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.

b. **John 15: 14** – You are my friends IF you keep my commandments.

2. However God is described as love.

a. **Psa. 86: 15** – But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, **S#12.** Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.

b. **I John 4: 16** – We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Which is it ? Does God love sinners or does He hate them ? S#13.

How do we know that God loves us ?

Jesus demonstrated God's love for the lost. 4 reasons we believe God loves

I. The birth Jesus demonstrated His love for the lost. S#14.

A. God the Son, i.e, Jesus lived in Heaven and prior to His incarnation. S#15.

1. **John 1: 1, 14** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, **S#16.** and the Word was God. ... **14** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

2. **Phil. 2: 5-8** Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **S#17.** **6** who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men

B. God left glory to become a flesh and blood man. S#18.

John 17: 5 – Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

2. The birth of Jesus was in humble circumstances.
 - a. His birth was not in a nice place ... in the presence of cattle.
 - b. He had to flee to a strange land instead of returning home.

S#19.

C. The miraculous birth of Jesus was planned and orchestrated by God Himself.

1. He was born of a virgin as a sign of His deity.

Isa. 7: 14 – Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.
2. **Luke 2: 8-20** ... Angels announced that He had been born and was in a manger.

D. Only love could motivate God to leave the glory of Heaven for such a birth. S#20.

Luke 19: 10 – For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost

II. The life of Jesus demonstrated His love for the lost.

S#21.

A. Jesus lived His life among the common people.

1. He made His living working with His hands.

Mark 6: 3 – Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him.
2. As He traveled doing His ministry, He did not travel first class. (*no tent*)

Luke 9: 58 – And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

B. God experienced all of the circumstances which were common to mankind.

1. Jesus felt fatigue, thirst, hunger, etc. that He had never felt in Heaven.

John 4: 6 – and Jacob's well was there. So Jesus, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. S#23.
2. The flesh of Jesus had all the desires that normally affect mankind.

Heb. 4: 15 – For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.
3. Jesus was afraid when He was facing crucifixion, but overcame His fear.

Luke 22: 41-44 And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, ⁴² saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done." S#24.

(Do we overcome our fears when evangelizing) ⁴³ Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. ⁴⁴ And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.

C. Jesus demonstrated the virtues He expects from those who serve Him.

1. He proactively did good things for others. (**Tit. 2: 14; 3: 8, 14**)
Acts 10: 38 – You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. **S#25.**
2. He treated others with compassion.
Matt. 9: 36 – Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.
3. He took a strong stand against sin.
 - a. **Matt. 23: 23-24** Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others.
24 You ^ablind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! **S#26.**
 - b. **Luke 13: 5** – I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish
4. Jesus reached out to lost people one on one and in mass. **S#27.**
 - a. **Luke 3: 7** – So he began saying to the crowds who were going out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”
 - b. **John 4** ... The Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well.
 - c. **Luke 19** ... Zaccheus the chief tax collector. (*Worst sinner in the crowd*)
5. Jesus cared very deeply for the souls of men. **S#28.**
Luke 19: 41 – When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it,

III. The vicarious death of Jesus on the cross demonstrated His love for the lost. #29.

- A. Jesus did not desire to suffer death on the cross. **S#30.**
 1. **Luke 22: 41 ff** ... He struggled to overcome fear, but surrendered to God’s will.
 2. He understood that it would be a shameful experience.
Heb. 12: 2 – fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **S#31.**
 - a. The sovereign ruler of the universe was paraded through the streets in shame.
 - b. Jesus was hoisted up naked in front of His mother, brothers and the crowd.
 3. What can we ever endure that would compare to that ?
 - a. Is Jesus asking too much when He asks us to tell other people about Him ?
 - b. **Rom. 8: 18** – For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **S#32.**

- c. **II Cor. 4: 17** – For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.
- B. Jesus came to earth knowing that He would be sacrificed as a sin offering. **S#33.**
1. **John 12: 27** – Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, ‘Father, **S#34.**
save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour.
 2. **Mark 10: 45** – For even the Son of Man did not come to be served,
but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.
- C. The vicarious sacrifice of Jesus made salvation possible for mankind. **S#35.**
1. **Rev. 1: 5** – from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead,
and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and
released us from our sins by His blood **S#36.**
 2. **I Pet. 2: 24** – He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we **S#37.**
might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds
you were healed.
 3. **Eph. 5: 2** – walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up
for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.
- D. Jesus paid for it and now offers this salvation to us as a free gift. **S#38.**

S#39.

IV. The ascension of Jesus back to the Father’s right hand demonstrated His love.

- A. He ascended in bodily form. He could have stayed or returned as Spirit. **S#40.**
- B. He now functions as a mediator between Christians and the Father. **S#41.**
- I Tim. 2: 5-6** For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men,
the man Christ Jesus, **6** who gave Himself as a ransom for all,
- C. When we sin Jesus is there in His body functioning as our advocate. **S#42.**
- I John 2: 1** – My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may
not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father,
Jesus Christ the righteous;

CONCLUSION :

- A. God loves you more than anyone on this earth and He has proven it. **S#43.**
S#44.
- B. He died to reconcile you to Himself.
Cease your rebellion and requite His love ! Surrender to His Lordship !

INVITATION :

You have the opportunity to be united with Him now. **S#45.**

S#46. ... Communion Slide

Lesson Text :**Luke 19: 1-10**

1 He entered Jericho and was passing through. **2** And there was a man called by the name of Zaccheus; he was a chief tax collector and he was rich. **3** Zaccheus was trying to see who Jesus was, and was unable because of the crowd, for he was small in stature. **4** So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree in order to see Him, for He was about to pass through that way. **5** When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house." **6** And he hurried and came down and received Him gladly. **7** When they saw it, they all began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." **8** Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much." **9** And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. **10** For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Philippians 2: 3-8

3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; **4** do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. **5** Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. **8** Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.