

Luke chapter 19: 1-27

Pre-What!

What do you remember of the Parable of the Ten Talents?

What?

1. Vv.1-3 Who was Zacchaeus?
2. vv. 2-8 What can we learn about Zacchaeus' attitude to his fellow Jews and about their attitude towards him?
2. What changed when he met Jesus?
3. What surprises you in Luke's telling of the Parable of the Ten Talents?

The Roman Empire taxed all its subjects; they used local agents to collect the taxes. The Empire set a rate to be collected from an area, but it was up to the local tax collectors to work out how much each person should give towards the total, and also to raise sufficient money to pay their wages and expenses. There was always a temptation to demand more than was strictly necessary to pay the taxes and the wages.

Even if "tax collector" was not synonymous with "thief", tax collectors were quislings, working for the hated oppressor, so they were not popular!

Abraham was the Father of Isaac, who was the father of Esau, and of Jacob, who was in turn the father of twelve sons, from who descended the twelve tribes of Israel, so all Jews were "sons of Abraham", but the term "sons of Abraham" was also used to mean "true Jew".

"Son of Man" is a title which Jesus uses to describe himself. It may refer back to Daniel 7:13b which describes "one like a son of man" to whom God gives dominion over the world. Or it may refer back to something like Ezekiel's use, where it just means "human being". No-one knows quite what Jesus meant when he used the term.

Parables are simple stories told to illustrate a point - theological, moral, educational. The stories are stories, they are made up, and they may not "match" the real life event perfectly in every way. Sometimes stories have their own internal logic, which means that the story "runs away with itself", so that it only "fits" where it touches."

So What?

4. V.10 Why does Jesus' say this? What do you think he means?
5. Who do you think the parable of the talents is really about?
Who are the characters in the story really?
6. v 14 why does Jesus say this?
7. v.21-24 what is this exchange about?
8. vv.25-27 why does Jesus say this?

Now What?

9. V.10 How can we shew this to those inside and outside the church?
10. What sort of stewards have we been individually and corporately? Give specific examples