

Fixing what is Broken

- What is something you have that has been broken?
- How about something very valuable to you?
- What can you do with something that is broken?
- Key beliefs in Christianity:
 - God created a good world, with nothing broken in it
 - Today the world and everything in it is broken
- Our question:
What is God's intention for a world, along with its people, that has been broken?

1



More than Rescued
Luke 19:1-10

bib.ly/Lu19.NIV

2

Upcoming Sermons at Crossway

• **Connecting through Stories with Jesus**

- Watching people’s encounters with Jesus in the Gospel of Luke
- Hearing our people’s stories with Jesus

• **Listening to Amos**

- An Old Testament “minor prophet” with a major message
- God’s confrontation of a religious community that tried to separate the horizontal from the vertical

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Setting of Luke 19

A rich ruler wanted to follow Jesus

Jesus said, “If you want to follow me, give all your money to the poor, and you’ll have treasure in heaven.”

“When he heard this, the man became very sad because he was very wealthy. Jesus looked at him and said, ‘**How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!** Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.’”

Those who heard this asked, “**Who then can be saved?**”

Luke 18:23-26

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Setting of Luke 19

Romans

Romans:

Had final authority over minorities
Controlled: laws, justice,
enforcement/army, commerce

Chief Tax Coll.

Tax Collectors

Jewish people

Tax collectors:

Were Jewish

Collected taxes from Jewish people

Paid taxes to Romans

Kept as much as they could
for themselves

Known as traitors & thieves

Jewish people:

Under Roman authority

Controlled: community life & religious life (mostly)

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Luke 19:1-10

bib.ly/Lk19.NIV

1-2: Setting and characters

3-4: • Jesus: on his way to Jerusalem

5: • Jericho: wonderful place for tax collectors

6-7: • Lots of taxable traffic going to and from Jerusalem

8: • Zacchaeus

• Beneficiary of an unjust social system

9-10: • And he was good at it

• So the rest of the Jewish people despised him

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Luke 19:1-10

1-2: Setting and characters

3-4: Zacchaeus broke social norms in order to see Jesus

- 5: • We don't know why he was interested
- 6-7: • Maybe because one of Jesus' chosen followers was a tax collector: Levi
- 8: • Being short and being rich blocked his way to Jesus
- 9-10: • He ran and climbed a tree to see Jesus
 - Not honorable actions

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Luke 19:1-10

1-2: Setting and characters

3-4: Zacchaeus broke social norms in order to see Jesus

- 5: Jesus broke social norms in order to be with Zacchaeus
- 6-7: • We don't know how Jesus knew Zacchaeus
- 8: • Certainly he was looking for 'the lost'
- 9-10: • Demanded hospitality
 - From the despised: rich tax collector
 - Jesus is righting a wrong of that society
 - He could have just said a word of healing
 - Instead He joined in fellowship with the despised
 - "I must": perhaps Jesus anticipated opposition
 - He would not give in to the pressure that will come

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Luke 19:1-10

1-2: Setting and characters

3-4: Zacchaeus broke social norms in order to see Jesus

5: Jesus broke social norms in order to be with Zacchaeus

6-7: Reactions to Jesus' action: joy and grumbling

8: • Zacchaeus **rejoiced** at Jesus' interest in him

- 9-10: • People **grumbled** that Jesus honored a despised man
- Zacchaeus hadn't yet done anything good except trying to see Jesus
 - Somehow they knew and despised Zacchaeus

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Luke 19:1-10

1-2: Setting and characters

3-4: Zacchaeus broke social norms in order to see Jesus

5: Jesus broke social norms in order to be with Zacchaeus

6-7: Reactions to Jesus' action: joy and grumbling

8: Zacchaeus was genuinely transformed

- 9-10: • Untraceable source of unjust wealth
- Give half to the poor
 - Traceable fraud
 - Pay back 4 times as much
 - Like the "pearl of great price" in reverse order
 - Having received the most precious gift of life, he gladly gave away his money for Jesus' purposes

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Luke 19:1-10

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8: Zacchaeus was genuinely transformed

9-10: **Jesus' interpretation: this whole package is salvation**

- Transformation is convincing evidence of salvation
 - Because it is an essential part of it
- "Son of Abraham": Zacchaeus has the ***family resemblance*** of a genuine disciple
- Through Zacchaeus, Jesus fulfilled His anointing

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One day, Jesus read from Isaiah in the synagogue:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim **good news to the poor.**

He has sent me to proclaim **freedom for the prisoners**
and recovery of **sight for the blind,**
to set the **oppressed free,**
to proclaim the **year of the Lord's favor.**"

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, "**Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.**"

Luke 4:16-21

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John [the Baptist] said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? **Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.** And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones **God can raise up children for Abraham.** The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not **produce good fruit** will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

Luke 3:7-9

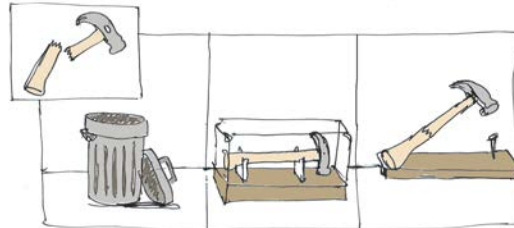
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The Big Idea

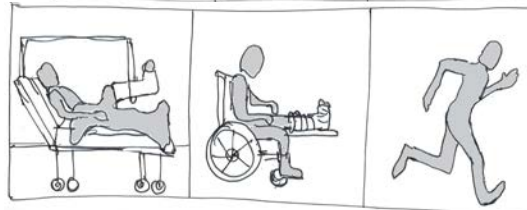
**Jesus' purpose is
to rescue the lost, the self-serving,
and the despised
so they will join His work
of bringing God's goodness
to the poor and oppressed**

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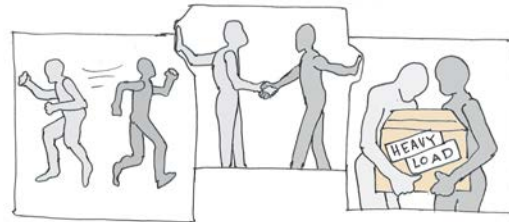
**What might you do
with a broken hammer?**



**What is our intention
with a broken body?**



**What is our intention
with a broken relationship?**



**What is God's intention
for whatever is broken?**

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The Big Idea

**Jesus' purpose is
to rescue the lost, the self-serving,
and the despised
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of bringing God's goodness
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Application

Rejoice in the full picture of God's intention for salvation

- Rescue
 - Jesus said, “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.”
John 5:24

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Application

Rejoice in the full picture of God's intention for salvation

- Rescue
- AND transformation to join the work of God
 - “Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the **evidence of the works themselves**. Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me **will do the works I have been doing**, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.” *John 14:11-12*

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Application

Rejoice in the full picture of God's intention for salvation

Join God's work to bring righteousness/justice

- “Be careful not to practice your **righteousness** in front of others to be seen by them” *Matthew 6:1*

Greek: dikaiosune: δικαιοσύνη: Fair & equitable dealing, justice; Integrity, virtue; Generosity, alms; Piety, godliness

“In English *justice* emphasizes conformity to society's standards, *righteousness* usually denotes conformity to God's standards or religious norms. However, these distinctions are not helpful when justice and righteousness are used to translate biblical terms...the two English terms are inseparable”

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Application

Rejoice in the full picture of God's intention for salvation

Join God's work to bring righteousness/justice

- “Be careful not to practice your **righteousness** in front of others to be seen by them” *Matthew 6:1*
- Jesus' examples: give to the needy, pray, fast
- Righteousness involves: vertical + horizontal
- Genuine conversion in Christ results in good works
 - “Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for **a tree is recognized by its fruit.**” *Matthew 12:33*

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Application

Rejoice in the full picture of God's intention for salvation

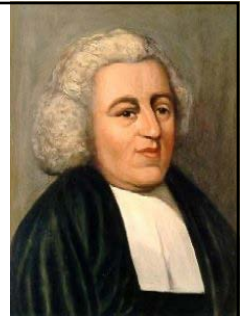
Join God's work to bring righteousness/justice

- Genuine conversion in Christ results in good works
- Learn to see unrighteousness/injustice

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John Newton:

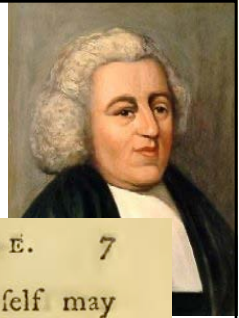
A slave trader who became an abolitionist



- In 1748 (age 23), in a storm at sea he started to seek God. At the time, he considered himself to be a Christian. Later on, he doubted that.
- 1750-1755 was captain of slave ships for 3 voyages. He saw himself as being sympathetic to the slaves, and he sought to restrain the worst excesses of the slave trade.
- In 1788, wrote "Thoughts Upon the African Slave Trade"
- He fought against the slave trade through 1807 when the slave trade was abolished
- In 1779, wrote "Amazing Grace"

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*John Newton:
A slave trader who became an abolitionist*



T H O U G H T S
N. L.
UPON THE
AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE

AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE. 7

Perhaps what I have said of myself may be applicable to the nation at large. The Slave Trade was always unjustifiable; but inattention and interest prevented, for a time, the evil from being perceived. It is otherwise

“The Slave Trade was always unjustifiable; but inattention and (self-)interest prevented, for a time, the evil from being perceived.”

BY J
RECTOR

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Application

Rejoice in the full picture of God’s intention for salvation

Join God’s work to bring righteousness/justice

- Genuine conversion in Christ results in good works
- Learn to see unrighteousness/injustice
 - Economic, education, opportunity, even life
 - Where has my good come at someone else’s loss?
 - In what ways might people experience hardship or trouble that they don’t deserve? **“The peoples of all nations”**
 - Inattention and self-interest may prevent perception **Race/Ethnicity plus...**

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Application

Rejoice in the full picture of God's intention for salvation

Join God's work to bring righteousness/justice

- Genuine conversion in Christ results in good works
- Learn to see unrighteousness/injustice
- Pursue righteousness/justice
 - “But seek first his kingdom and his **righteousness**, and all these things will be given to you as well.” *Matthew 6:33*
 - Both spiritual (**vertical, ‘righteousness’**) and “natural” (**horizontal, ‘justice’**)

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Application

Rejoice in the full picture of God's intention for salvation

Join God's work to bring righteousness/justice

- Genuine conversion in Christ results in good works
- Learn to see unrighteousness/injustice
- Pursue righteousness/justice
 - Where has wrong been done or is it being done?
 - Speak up. And confess where appropriate

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John Newton

2 THOUGHTS UPON THE

If I attempt, after what has been done, to throw my mite into the public stock of information, it is less from an apprehension that my interference is necessary, than from a conviction, that silence, at such a time, and on such an occasion, would, in me, be criminal. If my testimony should not be necessary, or

Why Newton wrote: "It is less from an apprehension that my interference is necessary, than from a conviction that silence, at such a time, and on such an occasion, would in me be criminal....I am bound in conscience, to take shame to myself by a public confession, which, however sincere, comes too late to prevent, or repair, the misery and mischief to which I have, formerly, been accessory."

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Application

Rejoice in the full picture of God's intention for salvation

Join God's work to bring righteousness/justice

- Genuine conversion in Christ results in good works
- Learn to see unrighteousness/injustice
- Pursue righteousness/justice
 - Where has wrong been done or is it being done?
 - Speak up. And confess where appropriate
 - Work to make things right: untraceable and traceable
 - What you confess before God
seek to make right with your hands

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The Big Idea

**Jesus' purpose is
to rescue the lost, the self-serving,
and the despised
so they will join His work
of bringing God's goodness
to the poor and oppressed**

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**More than simply being rescued,
Christ's church is to join God's work
of bringing righteousness/justice
both vertically and horizontally
both proclaiming and bringing
the Lord's favor
to those in distress**

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