

Jesus to the Rescue!

Luke 19:10

Introduction:

Jesus said in Luke 19:10, “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

When examining the body of work done by the hands of Jesus it is very evident that he sought out people to save them.

In order to save them, Jesus had to rescue them from their situation.

Jesus began his ministry in Galilee, after withdrawing there upon hearing that “John [the Baptist] had been taken into custody.”

Matthew 4:14-17 say, “This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: ‘The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— *The people who were sitting in darkness saw a great Light*, And those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, Upon them a Light dawned.’ From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*’”

When His ministry in Nazareth of Galilee began, he taught “in their synagogue so that they were astonished, and said, ‘Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?’” (Matthew 13:54)?

He read to them from “the book of the prophet Isaiah... ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because *He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor*. He has sent Me to proclaim *release to the captives*, And *recovery of sight to the blind*, To *set free those who are oppressed*, To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.’ And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, ‘Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’ And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, ‘Is this not Joseph’s son?’ (Luke 4:18-22).

But six verses later, we read, “And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. But passing through their midst, He went His way” (Luke 4:28-30).

Jesus called some disciples to follow Him, and the fishermen did.

Early on, the people “were amazed at his teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes” (Mark 1:22).

As he went about Galilee teaching, preaching, and healing he rather quickly gained popularity.

I. Jesus Rescued the Leper.

Jesus rescued a leper by saying, “I am willing; be cleansed” (Mark 1:41; Read vv. 40-42).

The Jewish teachers or scholars of Jesus day were markedly against having anything to do with a leper.

Ceremonial purification of a leper in the Old Testament consisted of two steps.

The first step took place outside the camp, where the priest examined the person to verify his recovery and eventually resulted in the person being allowed into the camp, and after seven more days back into his tent (Leviticus 14:1-9).

The second step restored the person to fellowship with God (Leviticus 14:10-32) by consecrating the person and sanctifying the organs of hearing, acting, and walking for God's service, as in the dedication of priests (Leviticus 8:24).

Jesus, unlike the Jewish teachers, was willing to rescue the outsiders, the outcast of society, the defiled.

Jesus "touched a man with leprosy, thereby demonstrating his power to overcome uncleanness as represented by leprosy."¹

Many people are living unclean, unholy lives making them unfit to follow the clean and holy God.

They need to be rescued.

II. Jesus Rescued the Doubting.

Jesus rescued the doubting, saying, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:31; Go to Mark 5).

Jesus had feed "five thousand men" (Mark 5:44), then He "made His disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side to Bethsaida, while He Himself was sending the crowd away" (v. 45).

Jesus went up on the mountain to pray, and "when it was evening, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and He was alone on the land. Seeing them straining at the oars—Matthew adds, 'the boat was already a long distance from the land, battered by the waves—for the wind was against them, at about the fourth watch of the night [Jesus] came to them, walking on the sea; and He intended to pass by them.'"

"But when they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed that it was a ghost, and cried out...in fear (Matthew adds). For they all saw Him and were terrified. But immediately He spoke with them and said to them, 'Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid.'"

Jumping to Matthew's account, Mark does not record Peter's walking on the water.

Matthew writes (in 14:28), "Peter said to [Jesus], 'Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.' And He said, 'Come!' And Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came toward Jesus."

Peter got out of the boat because he believed this was Jesus.

Peter got out of the boat because he believed he was invited.

Peter got out of the boat because he believed Jesus would allow him to walk on water also.

"But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Some people followed Christ in the past but are no longer following Him.

Their faith was little, and they began to doubt. Instead of crying out for help, they began to sink in silence.

They need to be rescued.

III. Jesus Rescued the Deaf.

Jesus rescued the deaf, saying, "Be opened!"

¹ Walter A. Elwell and Barry J. Beitzel, "[Leprosy, Leper.](#)" *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 1325.

In Mark 7:32, “they brought to Him one who was deaf and spoke with difficulty, and they implored Him to lay His hands on him.”

Stop, right there! They who? “**They** brought to Him...**they** implored Him.”

Unnamed, unidentified people, but not the disciples, brought the deaf man who spoke with difficulty to Jesus.

“Jesus took him aside from the crowd, by himself, and put His fingers into his ears, and after spitting, He touched his tongue with the saliva; and looking up to heaven with a deep sigh, He said to him, ‘Ephphatha!’ that is, ‘Be opened!’ And his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was removed, and he began speaking plainly.”

Some people turn a deaf ear to Jesus and his messengers, while some of Jesus’ followers speak with difficulty about Jesus, stuttering, and stammering because they are not as familiar with him or his word as they ought to be.

These people need to be rescued.

IV. Jesus Rescued the Blind.

Jesus rescued a blind man, saying, “Go; your faith has made you well” (Mark 10:52).

Backing up to verse 46, Jesus and His disciples were leaving Jericho and a large crowd was following them.

“A blind beggar named Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the road. When he heard that it was Jesus the Nazarene, he began to cry out and say, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’”

“Many were sternly telling him to be quiet, but he kept crying out all the more, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’”

“Jesus stopped and said, ‘Call him here.’ So, they called the blind man, saying to him, ‘Take courage, stand up! He is calling for you.’”

“Throwing aside his cloak, he jumped up and came to Jesus. And answering him, Jesus said, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ And the blind man said to Him, ‘Rabboni, I want to regain my sight!’”

“And Jesus said to him, ‘Go; your faith has made you well.’ Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him on the road.”

Some people are looking to see Jesus, but they cannot see him, not in their community, not in the people, not in the church.

They want to see Jesus because they want to receive mercy.

They would follow Jesus if only someone would show them, Jesus.

These people need to be rescued.

Application:

Jesus came to the rescue of the leper, the doubting, the deaf, and the blind.

He rescued them from their situation, each one desiring a different rescuing but the same rescuer.

Jesus wants to rescue people today!

All who are spiritually defiled, Jesus wants to cleanse and make whole.

Everyone who doubts, Jesus wants to lend a hand and assist them to greater faith.

Each person who turns a deaf ear to Jesus or with difficulty struggles to confess him, He wants to open, set free to hear him and speak his name.

Everybody who desires to see Jesus but cannot, Jesus wants to reveal himself through His Word and to make them well.

Conclusion:

All who are defiled by sin can be cleansed by Jesus.

Everyone who doubts can find evidence, proof, and come to faith with Jesus' help.

Each person who is deaf to the message of Jesus can hear it now; each person who has difficulty confessing Jesus can be assisted to speak plainly by Jesus.

Everybody who desires to see Jesus can see his revelation in creation, see him in his word, and see the changes in others who came to see Jesus.

After the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, Mark records three appearances of Jesus (Mark 16).

The third appearance was to the disciples as they were eating; "He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen" (Mark 16:14).

"And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned'" (Mark 16:15 and 16).

Jesus comes to the rescue when his believing followers "go into all the world and preach the gospel."

The people who hear the gospel (Mark 4:13-20), repent and believe in the gospel (Mark 1:15), and are baptized shall be saved (Mark 16:16)!

For all who need to be rescued, it is, Jesus to the rescue!