

Summary of Luke 18–20

In Luke 18, Jesus teaches that humility and dependence on God—not religious status or outward obedience—are what bring a person into right relationship with Him. The parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector exposes two postures of the heart: one rooted in pride and comparison, the other in repentance and desperation for mercy. Jesus makes it clear that the one who humbles himself is justified before God. This theme continues in the encounter with the rich ruler, who desires eternal life but cannot let go of his wealth and self-reliance. In contrast, a blind beggar cries out in humble faith for mercy and receives both healing and affirmation from Jesus.

Luke then shows humility in repentance through Zacchaeus, a man transformed by grace. When Jesus enters his home, Zacchaeus responds not only with belief but with radical restitution and generosity. Jesus declares that salvation has come to his house, not because of position or wealth, but because of repentance and faith. Finally in Luke 20, Jesus confronts the pride of the religious elite whose authority is hollow and whose faith is performative. Their attempts to trap Jesus reveal hearts resistant to surrender, while Jesus exposes false righteousness and calls attention to genuine devotion—like that of the poor widow—who gives not from excess but from sacrifice. Across all three chapters, Jesus draws a sharp contrast between pride and humility, showing that entrance into God’s kingdom always begins with surrender.

Reflection Questions (Humility & Relationship with God)

1. In the story of the Pharisee and the tax collector, which posture do you tend to take before God—comparison or confession? Why?
2. Do you approach God as someone who “deserves” grace or someone who depends completely on it?
3. What might the rich ruler reveal about areas of your life that you hesitate to surrender to God?
4. If Jesus asked you to give up one thing that gives you identity, comfort, or control, what might it be?
5. The blind beggar cried out publicly and persistently for mercy—what keeps you from being that honest with God?
6. When you pray, is your tone more confidence in yourself or desperate for God?
7. Zacchaeus didn’t just feel sorry—he made things right. Is there anything in your life that requires repentance with action?

8. Do you see spiritual change in your life mostly as belief, or as transformation?
9. How does your view of God affect your humility? Do you see Him as gracious, distant, strict, or compassionate?
10. In what ways might pride subtly interfere with your closeness to God—through self-reliance, image, or control?

Prayer

God, I come to You not with my achievements, but with my need.

Where pride has taken root, replace it with humility.

Where I cling to control, help me release it.

I want to depend on You, not myself.

Restore my vision spiritually as You restored sight physically.

Let salvation shape my life the way it shaped Zacchaeus' home. Amen.