

Divine Worship

Luke 19.1-10

“The Likeness of Christ (1): Seekers”

Preparation

Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Silent Meditation

2 Corinthians 3.17, 18

Call to Worship

Leader:

Let us seek the Lord together.

Psalm 34.4, 5 (adapted)

People:

For He will hear us, and He will deliver us from all our fears.

All:

We look to You, Lord, to see Your glory, that we might be radiant like You!

Hymn of Praise

(Alleluia [Lowe]: [*Mighty God, While Angels Bless You*](#))

Psalm 34.1-5, 8, 9

I will bless the Lord at all times; I shall praise Him evermore!
My soul makes its boast in Jesus – Him we gladly all adore!

Refrain v. 3

Magnify the Name of Jesus!
Let us lift His Name in praise!

When I sought the Lord, He answered and from fear delivered me.
Those who look to Him are radiant; shamed their face shall never be.

Refrain

Taste and see how good is Jesus; blessed are all who in Him hide.
None shall lack for any blessing who in Christ will e'er confide.

Refrain

Invocation and Call to Confession

Leader:

O Lord Jesus, we know it is the desire and work of Your Spirit to transform us into Your likeness, that You might increase in us, and we might decrease! And yet we are so far from being like You, and still so much bound up in our old ways and lives. As we come to You this morning, Lord, eager to see Your glory, search us by Your Spirit, as we confess our sins silently to You. **Hear our silent confessions, Lord.**

Silent Confession

All

Word of Assurance

Psalm 34.17, 18

Leader:

The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears,
And delivers them out of all their troubles.
The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart,
And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

Hymn of Assurance

Psalm 34.6, 7

(Alleluia [Lowe]: [*Mighty God, While Angels Bless You*](#))

When I cried to God, He heard me, and from trouble rescued me.
'Round their camp His angel lingers that they may delivered be.

Refrain v. 3

Magnify the Name of Jesus!
Let us lift His Name in praise!

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

All

All may offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. At the end, let the Leader lead the people in **praying the Lord's Prayer**.

Offerings to the Lord

Leader:

Let us now bring our offerings to honor the Lord and edify one another by His Word: a passage of Scripture which has been particularly helpful; a brief word of praise for some grace of God bestowed; an observation from creation which revealed the glory of the Lord; a word of appreciation for some aspect of the beauty, goodness, or truth of the Lord. When all have shared, the **Leader shall pray**:

We give You thanks and praise, O Lord, and offer our confession of faith together (**all together, saying the Apostles' Creed**);

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Doxology

All

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!
Praise Him, all creatures, here below!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Amen!

The Ministry of the Word

Luke 19.1-10

The Leader will read the passage for today, or ask another to read it. Have someone prepared to read each of the passages mentioned in the first paragraph of today's study.

Leader:

The clear teaching of Scripture is that God is at work within us, by the power of His Holy Spirit, to transform us increasingly into the likeness of Jesus Christ. We are God's makeover project. He calls us to set our minds on Jesus (Colossians 3.1-3) so that we might learn Him (Ephesians 4.17-24), put on Jesus (Romans 13.14), and be made like Him. This is, in fact, the very destination of our lives, as John reminds us in 1 John 3.1-3.

1. How do you experience God working in you to make you more like Jesus?

It will help us to increase in the likeness of Jesus if we can see Him in certain roles, which we also might learn to embrace. In our text for today, Jesus describes Himself as a "seeker".

2. How is it evident, throughout Jesus' earthly sojourn, that He actively sought people?
3. What is He doing in Luke 19.1-10 that identifies Him as a seeker?

When we see Jesus in His glory, as Paul describes in 2 Corinthians 3.17, 18, we should see Him as a seeker. As we are transformed into His image, we too, should become seekers. Let's think about that for a bit.

4. What would someone be doing who was a seeker?

We are being transformed into the likeness of Jesus. Thus, we should expect increasingly to become a seeker like Jesus was, seeking the lost and seeking others, for the purpose of bringing near the Kingdom of God. Most of us are not naturally inclined to seek others in order to reach them with God's grace. We tend to wait for others to seek and reach out to us. But if we're learning Jesus, even putting on Jesus, we must allow the Spirit of Jesus to shape us into His seeking image.

5. What are some things we could do to become seekers like Jesus?

Seekers like Jesus set their minds on reaching out to others, to bring the grace and truth of God to them by word and deed. May God help us to improve as seekers, and thus to increase in the likeness of Jesus Christ.

Meditate in silence on the teaching of Luke 19.1-10.

Summarize in one thought what God wants us to learn from this meditation.

Hymn of Commitment

“More about Jesus” by Eliza E. Hewett

([More about Jesus](#))

More about Jesus would I know,
More of His grace to others show;
More of His saving fullness see,
More of His love who died for me.

Refrain:

More, more about Jesus,
More, more about Jesus;
More of His saving fullness see,
More of His love who died for me.

More about Jesus let me learn,
More of His holy will discern;
Spirit of God, my teacher be,
Showing the things of Christ to me.

Refrain

More about Jesus, in His Word,
Holding communion with my Lord;
Hearing His voice in every line,
Making each faithful saying mine.

Refrain

More about Jesus on His throne,
Riches in glory all His own;
More of His kingdom’s sure increase;
More of His coming, Prince of Peace.

Refrain

Benediction

Psalm 34.14, 15

Leader:

Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

All

May the eyes of the LORD be on His righteous ones, and may His ears be open to our cry!

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