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# Narrative Lectionary

Year 3 | The Year of Luke

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## Scripture Readings

### March 21, 2021

*The Fifth Sunday  
in Lent*

#### **.....** **About the text**

**Y**OU DON'T RECOGNIZE HER at first. She's dressed like everyone else at the big hardware store. The only thing that stands out about her is her odd interest in what everyone else is buying. Oh, and that camera crew, following her moves and recording the conversations.

Even when she approaches you, and offers some help with renovating your home, you're not sure at first. Who is this? you think. And what's the catch?

Only a few take her up on the offer: to accept a "flash" makeover of the worst part of their house with the best materials and contractors. The rest have plenty of time to regret their reluctance.

As Jesus walks through Jericho, many stand by. And, they are indignant about who gets the free makeover.



## Luke 18:31–19:10

31 Then he took the twelve aside and said to them, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. <sup>32</sup> For he will be handed over to the Gentiles; and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. <sup>33</sup> After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again.” <sup>34</sup> But they understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

35 As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. <sup>36</sup> When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. <sup>37</sup> They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” <sup>38</sup> Then he shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>39</sup> Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet; but he shouted even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” <sup>40</sup> Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, <sup>41</sup> “What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me see again.” <sup>42</sup> Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has saved you.” <sup>43</sup> Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

19:1 He entered Jericho and was

31 Then Jesus took the Twelve off to the side and said, “Listen carefully. We’re on our way up to Jerusalem. Everything written in the Prophets about the Son of Man will take place. <sup>32</sup> He will be handed over to the Romans, jeered at, made sport of, and spit on. Then, after giving him the third degree, they will kill him. <sup>33</sup> In three days he will rise, alive.” <sup>34</sup> But they didn’t get it, could make neither heads nor tails of what he was talking about.

35 He came to the outskirts of Jericho. A blind man was sitting beside the road asking for handouts. <sup>36</sup> When he heard the rustle of the crowd, he asked what was going on. <sup>37</sup> They told him, “Jesus the Nazarene is going by.”

38 He yelled, “Jesus! Son of David! Mercy, have mercy on me!”

39 Those ahead of Jesus told the man to shut up, but he only yelled all the louder, “Son of David! Mercy, have mercy on me!”

40 Jesus stopped and ordered him to be brought over. When he had come near, Jesus asked, <sup>41</sup> “What do you want from me?”

He said, “Master, I want to see again.”

42 Jesus said, “Go ahead—see again! Your faith has saved and healed you!”

<sup>43</sup> The healing was instant: He looked up, seeing—and then followed Jesus, glorifying God. Everyone in the street joined in, shouting praise to God.

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passing through it. <sup>2</sup> A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup> He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup> So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. <sup>7</sup> All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." <sup>8</sup> Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." <sup>9</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

## The Message

19:1 Then Jesus entered and walked through Jericho. <sup>2</sup> There was a man there, his name Zacchaeus, the head tax man and quite rich. <sup>3</sup> He wanted desperately to see Jesus, but the crowd was in his way—he was a short man and couldn't see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup> So he ran on ahead and climbed up in a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus when he came by.

<sup>5</sup> When Jesus got to the tree, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down. Today is my day to be a guest in your home."

<sup>6</sup> Zacchaeus scrambled out of the tree, hardly believing his good luck, delighted to take Jesus home with him. <sup>7</sup> Everyone who saw the incident was indignant and grumped, "What business does he have getting cozy with this crook?"

<sup>8</sup> Zacchaeus just stood there, a little stunned. He stammered apologetically, "Master, I give away half my income to the poor—and if I'm caught cheating, I pay four times the damages."

<sup>9</sup> Jesus said, "Today is salvation day in this home! Here he is: Zacchaeus, son of Abraham! <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to find and restore the lost."

## Psalm 84:1-4, 10-12

1 How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O LORD of hosts!

2 My soul longs, indeed it faints for  
the courts of the LORD; · my heart and  
my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

1 What a beautiful home, GOD of  
the Angel Armies! I've always  
longed to live in a place like this, · <sup>2</sup> Al-  
ways dreamed of a room in your house,  
where I could sing for joy to God-alive!

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3 Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, · at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. · 4 Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. Selah

10 For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. · I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness. · 11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. · No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly. · 12 O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

## The Message

3 Birds find nooks and crannies in your house, sparrows and swallows make nests there. · They lay their eggs and raise their young, singing their songs in the place where we worship. · GOD of the Angel Armies! King! God! 4 How blessed they are to live and sing there!

10 One day spent in your house, this beautiful place of worship, beats thousands spent on Greek island beaches. · I'd rather scrub floors in the house of my God than be honored as a guest in the palace of sin.

11 All sunshine and sovereign is GOD, generous in gifts and glory. · He doesn't scrimp with his traveling companions. · 12 It's smooth sailing all the way with GOD of the Angel Armies.

The Narrative Lectionary presents the story of God's work in humanity through a single Gospel each year. This is Year 3: The Year of Luke.