

The Wonderful Salvation in the Gospel of Luke

1. A Jubilee

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me to announce the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to send away in release those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, the year of Jubilee (Luke 4:18).

From the time of the fall of Adam human history has been one of poverty (being without God), captivity (bondage to sin), blindness (darkness and ignorance), and oppression (sickness and dissatisfaction). But now in Christ we have the glad tidings of blessing, release, sight, and acceptance before God. This is the gracious gospel of salvation. This is the real jubilee, the acceptable year of the Lord.

2. Attracted

And Jesus said to Simon, Do not be afraid. From now on you will be catching men alive. And when they had brought the boats to land, they left all and followed Him (Luke 5:10-11).

The calling of the first four disciples was a calling that attracted the occupied ones. Human beings do not realize how much they are fallen not only in sin but also in their occupation. Of course, it is necessary for us to work. Paul charged the believers to work for a living (2 Thes. 3:10-12). We need to have a means of employment. However, the problem is that our occupation occupies us and keeps us from God. Luke's intention in 5:1-11 is to show how the Man-Savior acted in His ministry in His human virtues with His divine attributes to attract people and gain them for Himself.

3. Cleansed

And while He was in one of the cities, behold, there was a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged Him, saying, Lord, if You are willing, You can cleanse me. And stretching out His hand, He touched him, saying, I am willing; be cleansed (Luke 5:12-13)!

A leper portrays a typical sinner. Leprosy is the most contaminating and damaging disease, isolating its victim both from God and men. To cleanse the leper signifies to recover the sinner to the fellowship with God and with men.

4. Raised

And when the Lord saw her, He was moved with compassion for her and said to her, Do not weep. And He came near and touched the bier, and those carrying it stood still. And He said, Young man, to you I say, Arise (Luke 7:13-14).

The Savior's compassion was also unique in His loving sympathy. He volunteered, in His tender mercy, and by His power of resurrection to raise the widow's son from death, without being asked.

5. Forgiven

For this reason I say to you, her sins which are many are forgiven, because she loved much; but to whom little is forgiven, he loves little (Luke 7:47).

Love is the issue, the outcome, of our faith. First we believe in the Lord Jesus, having faith in Him. Then we are forgiven of all our sins, and this brings in love for the Lord.

6. Finding a Home

But a certain Samaritan, who was journeying, came upon him; and when he saw him, he was moved with compassion; And he came to him and bound up his wounds and poured oil and wine on them. And placing him on his own beast, he brought him to an inn and took care of him (Luke 10:33-34).

The Samaritan brought the man to an inn and took care of him. This indicates that He brought him to the church and took care of him through the church.

7. Making us Seekers

Seek His kingdom, and these things shall be added to you. . . For where your treasure is, there also your heart will be (Luke 12:31, 34).

We all need to be rescued from the anxiety of life. There is no need for us to be anxious about food and clothing. The meeting of these needs depends on God's faithfulness. He is faithful, and we should look to Him for what we need.

8. Making us Stewards

And the Lord said, Who then is the faithful and prudent steward, whom the master will set over his service to give them their portion of food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing (Luke 12:42-43).

We should learn to be watchful and faithful, that is, to serve our Lord, who is coming back, with watchfulness and faithfulness.

9. Making us Shepherds

Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost. . . Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I lost. In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of God over one sinner repenting (Luke 15:6, 9-10).

The shepherd seeks the lost sheep out in the field, whereas the woman seeks the coin inside the house. Just as the shepherd typifies Christ, so the woman typifies the Holy Spirit. In this first parable the objective seeking is the coming of Christ to this earth. In the second parable the Holy Spirit comes into our heart, which is the subjective seeking.

10. Enjoying a Full Salvation

But the father said to his slaves, bring out quickly the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fattened calf; slaughter it, and let us eat and be merry, because this son of mine was dead and lives again; he was lost and has been found. And they began to be merry (Luke 15:22-23).

In this parable we see that God's salvation is of two aspects, the outward aspect and the inward aspect. The outward aspect is Christ as our righteousness to justify us, and the inward aspect is Christ as our life and life supply to satisfy us.