

# NEW SIGHT

Luke 18:31 - 19:10

## COMMENTARY ON THE TEXT

### THE BLIND MAN

*the only one who saw things clearly*

The blind man addresses Jesus as the “Son of David,” a title that shows he recognizes Jesus for who he was, the Messiah. This is ironic in that the disciples, hearing Jesus explain again what it meant to be the Son of Man—to be rejected, mocked, killed, and rise again—failed to understand.

### PREDICTIONS

*Jesus tells them again...*

This is the third time in Luke’s Gospel that Jesus predicted his death and resurrection. In Mark and Matthew, the third prediction summarizes Jesus’ delivery first into the hands of the religious authorities, and then the Romans. Yet this isn’t the context of the prediction in Luke’s version.

### ZACCHAEUS

*short in more than one way*

The expectation in first-century Israel would have been that he was corrupt, practicing extortion, skimming some off the top for himself, and exploiting his fellow Israelites as he collected for Rome. His place in the community, his stature, was truly “short.”

## DISCUSSION & ACTIVITIES

*read through the list below and chose where to begin!*

#### Prediction

- What was the significance of Jesus heading to **Jerusalem**?
- Why do you think Jesus’ disciples **refuse to hear** what Jesus is telling them will happen?

#### Blind Man

- What about the crowd might have gotten the blind man’s attention? Why would the name “Jesus of Nazareth” have caused a reaction?

#### Zacchaeus

- What might a local person think about a “chief tax collector” in your own community? Why?
- Compose a list of question you would ask Zacchaeus to better understand why he did what he did.

#### How are these stories linked?

What does one part have to do with the others? Why do you think the author of the gospel of Luke chose to place them together?

## JOURNALING ACTIVITY

**Prompt #1:** Think back to your first encounter with Jesus. **How did you see yourself in a new way after that encounter?** Did it prompt you to make a significant change in how you were living your life? If so, how?

**Prompt #2:** Jesus isn’t interested in changing us once, but in helping us grow and change, day by day, to be more like him. Sometimes those changes are tough because they hit us in sensitive places—in our wallets or in our close relationships. **Is there a more recent encounter with Jesus that stirred a significant change in you?** If so, describe the situation.

*To close, share your reflections with the group.*