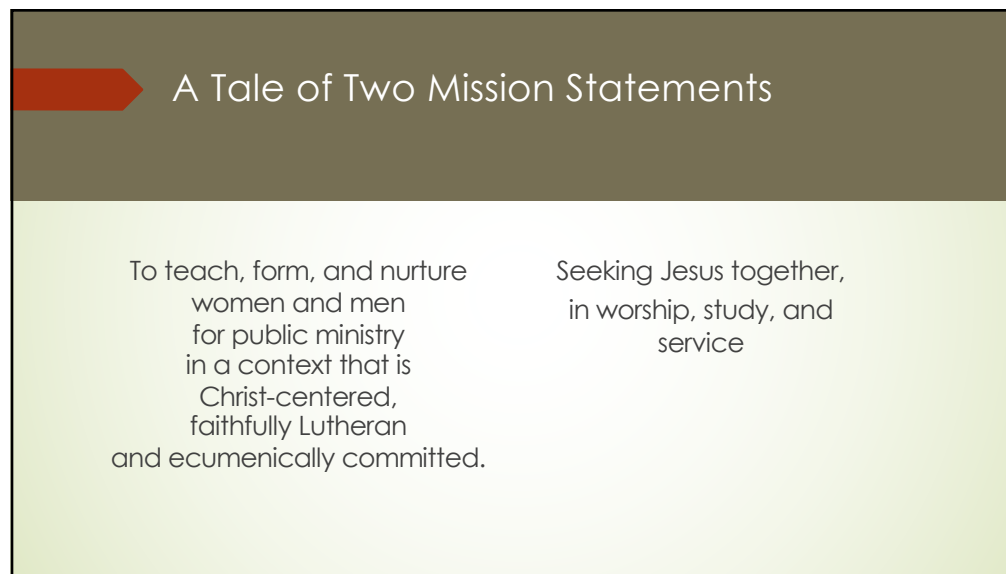



1




2




## Seeking


What does it mean to seek?




HUMILITY



CURIOSITY




HOPE




LONGING

3




## Jesus


What does it mean to seek Jesus?




TRINITY  
The one we seek is Jesus of Nazareth,  
Son of the Father, in the unity of the  
Spirit.



LOVE  
We seek one who was sent by God  
because God so loved the world.




EMBODIED  
We seek the incarnate, crucified, risen  
one.



FOUND  
We seek in the context of already  
having been found.

4




## Together

With whom are we together?

“Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God...”  
(Luke 5:1)

5



“The crowd is everything. The crowd is us.

People shouting, screaming, crying, pushing, shoving, calling out to Jesus, 'Jesus, help me,' 'Jesus, over here.' People being forced to press up against each other to get to Jesus, to hear him, and to get what they need from him. People who hate each other, who would prefer not to be next to each other, Pharisees, Sadducees, Zealots, rebels, insurrectionists, terrorists, murderers, tax collectors, sinners all... widows, the orphans, the poor, the rich, sex workers, wonderers, magicians, musicians, thieves, gangsters, centurions, addicts, magistrates, city leaders, people from all over the Roman Empire—all pressing to hear Jesus.

Jesus teaches a motley crew,  
a vagabond feast of people who  
will be caught together under his word  
like holy smoke covering them all,  
the smell on their clothes,  
on their skin.

”

Willie James Jennings, *After Whiteness: An Education in Belonging* (Eerdmans, 2020), pp. 12-13.

6

Luke 19:1 He entered Jericho and was 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."

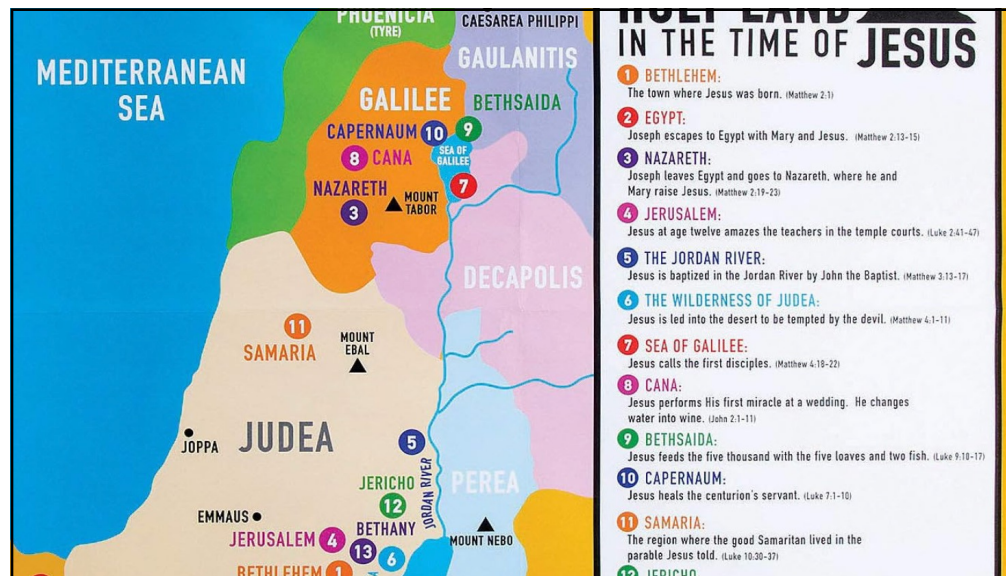
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## Questions

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Where are we (geographically)?

8



9

## Questions

Where are we (geographically)?

Where are we in the flow of the gospel story?

Where is Jesus headed?

What *must* Jesus do?

Extra Credit: Remember any other houses Jesus *must* be in?

10

Excursus:  
Divine  
Necessity  
in Luke's  
Gospel

1. "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in **my Father's house?**" (2:49).
2. "I **must proclaim the good news** of the kingdom of God to the other cities also; for I was sent for this purpose" (4:43).
3. "The **Son of Man must undergo great suffering**, and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, **and on the third day be raised**" (9:22; see also 13:33, 17:25, 24:7).
4. "But **we had to celebrate** and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found" (15:32).
5. 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**" (19:5).
6. "**Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer** these things and **then enter into his glory?**" (Luke 24:26).

11

“ Luke 19:1 He entered Jericho and was 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.

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12

Think like “all who saw it.”

Why is Jesus  
wrong to go to  
Zacchaeus's  
home?

Who cares  
about the  
grumbling?

13

“

<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.”

”

14

## See(k)ing and Finding

1. Zacchaeus cannot see Jesus, so he climbs a tree.
2. Jesus sees Zacchaeus and invites himself to dinner.
3. The grumblers see a problem.
4. Zacchaeus sees Jesus ...  
... and notices his neighbors.
5. Jesus sees a son of Abraham; someone he came to seek and save.

15

## Today

"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" (Luke 19:9-10).

- Where are we, geographically?
- Where in the gospel story are we?
- When did salvation arrive?

16



## Observations

- ▀ There's always time for a meal.
- ▀ Grumblers gonna grumble.
- ▀ Word & Table: where sinners & Jesus seek and find.
- ▀ Salvation appears ahead of time.

17

## Red Brocade

Naomi Shihab Nye

The Arabs used to say,  
When a stranger appears at your door,  
feed him for three days  
before asking who he is,  
where he's come from,  
where he's headed.  
That way, he'll have strength  
enough to answer.  
Or, by then you'll be  
such good friends  
you don't care.

Let's go back to that.  
Rice? Pine nuts?  
Here, take the red brocade pillow.  
My child will serve water  
to your horse.

No, I was not busy when you came!  
I was not preparing to be busy.  
That's the armor everyone put on  
to pretend they had a purpose  
in the world.

I refuse to be claimed.  
Your plate is waiting.  
We will snip fresh mint  
into your tea.

18

There's always time for a meal.\*

"It's hard to hate up close. Move in."  
—Brené Brown

"Spend the afternoon. You can't take it with you."  
—Annie Dillard

"Welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God"  
—Paul (Romans 15:7).

\*In praise of the fellowship committee.

19

"We don't have enough..."

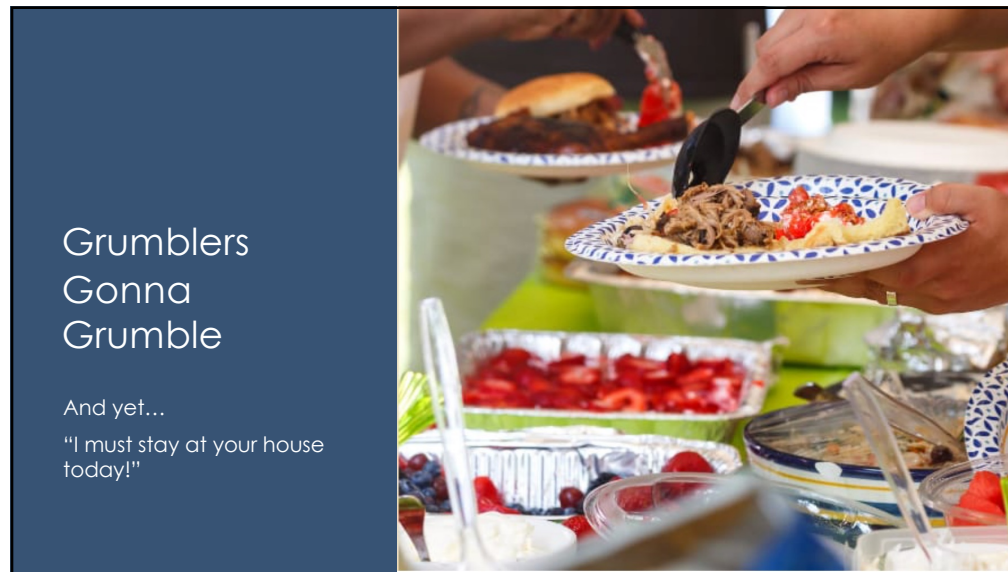
"We need..."

"This is a waste of..."

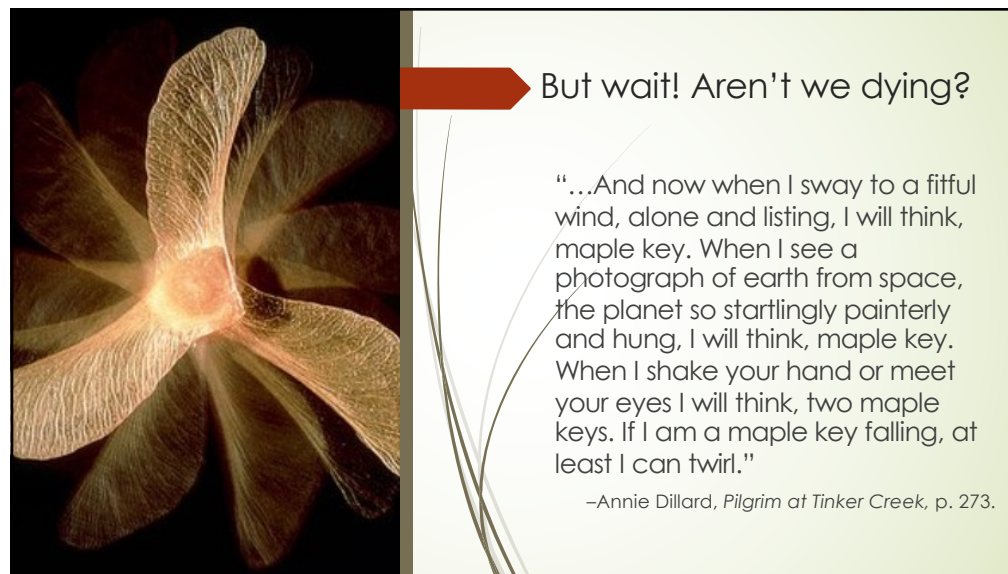
"What's this world coming to?"

Grumblers gonna grumble.

20



21



22

## Observations

- ▀ There's always time for a meal.
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- ▀ Salvation appears ahead of time.