

# Luke 19:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.

## Analysis

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**And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.** The Greek verb *diērchetō* (διήρχετο, "was passing through") indicates Jesus was traveling through Jericho en route to Jerusalem, not planning to linger. This seemingly casual detail sets up the dramatic interruption that follows—Zacchaeus's desperate pursuit of Jesus. Jericho was a wealthy city on the main road from Perea to Jerusalem, about 17 miles northeast of the holy city. This is Jesus's final journey to the cross (Luke 9:51), making every encounter along the way pregnant with significance.

Luke's narrative structure connects this passage to the previous healing of blind Bartimaeus (Luke 18:35-43), who cried out for mercy and received sight. Now another outcast—a chief tax collector—will receive salvation. The pattern reveals Jesus's mission: "**The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost**" (Luke 19:10). Both the physically blind beggar and the spiritually blind extortioner experience transforming encounters with Christ on the road through Jericho.

## Historical Context

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Jericho was one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, known as "the city of palm trees" (Deuteronomy 34:3). By Jesus's time, it had become a prosperous center of balsam production and date cultivation. Herod the Great had built a magnificent winter palace there, and the city served as a customs station where taxes were collected on goods traveling from Perea to Judea. The city's

wealth and strategic location made it a prime assignment for chief tax collectors like Zacchaeus, who would have overseen multiple toll collectors in the region.

## Related Passages

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. Why is it significant that Jesus was merely 'passing through' Jericho rather than planning to stay?
2. How does the location of Jericho on the road to Jerusalem add urgency to this encounter with Zacchaeus?
3. What does the sequence of encounters in Jericho (Bartimaeus, then Zacchaeus) reveal about Jesus's mission to the marginalized?

## Interlinear Text

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Kαὶ	εἰσελθὼν	διήρχετο	τὴν	Ἰεριχώ
And	Jesus entered	and passed through	G3588	Jericho
G2532	G1525	G1330		G2410

## Additional Cross-References

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**Luke 18:35** (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging:

**1 Kings 16:34** (Parallel theme): In his days did Hiel the Beth-elite build Jericho: he laid the foundation thereof in Abiram his firstborn, and set up the gates thereof in his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Joshua the son of Nun.

**Joshua 2:1** (Parallel theme): And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there.

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