15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Mark 1:15

24-26 From there Jesus set out for the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house there where he didn't think he would be found, but he couldn't escape notice.

He was barely inside when a woman who had a disturbed daughter heard where he was. She came and knelt at his feet, begging for help.

The woman was Greek, Syro-Phoenician by birth. She asked him to cure her daughter. ²⁷ He said, "Stand in line and take your turn. The children get fed first. If there's any left over, the dogs get it."

²⁸ She said, "Of course, Master. But don't dogs under the table get scraps dropped by the children?" ²⁹⁻³⁰ Jesus was impressed. "You're right! On your way! Your daughter is no longer disturbed. The demonic affliction is gone."

She went home and found her daughter relaxed on the bed, the torment gone for good.

Mark 7:24-30

19¹⁻⁴ Then Jesus entered and walked through Jericho. There was a man there, his name Zacchaeus, the head tax man and quite rich.

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.

So he ran on ahead and climbed up in a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus when he came by.

5-7 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." Zacchaeus scrambled out of the tree, hardly believing his good luck, delighted to take Jesus home with him.

Everyone who saw the incident was indignant and grumped, "What business does he have getting cozy with this crook?"

⁸ 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."

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

Luke 19:1-10

²⁰⁻²¹ Jesus, grilled by the Pharisees on when the kingdom of God would come,

answered, "The kingdom of God doesn't come by counting the days on the calendar. Nor when someone says, 'Look here!' or, 'There it is!' And why?

Because God's kingdom is already among you."

Luke 17:20-21

²⁸ One of the religion scholars came up. Hearing the lively exchanges of question and answer and seeing how sharp Jesus was in his answers, he put in his question:

"Which is most important of all the commandments?"

29-31 Jesus said, "The first in importance is, 'Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.'

And here is the second: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment that ranks with these."

32-33 The religion scholar said, "A wonderful answer, Teacher! So lucid and accurate—that God is one and there is no other.

And loving him with all passion and intelligence and energy, and loving others as well as you love yourself. Why, that's better than all offerings and sacrifices put together!"

34 When Jesus realized how insightful he was, he said, "You're almost there, right on the border of God's kingdom."

This Scribe saw the great fact of the spirituality of the Divine law-- that after all, religion consisted in that love to God which the law requires--.

and by his answer to the Saviour, Jesus saw that he had broken so far through the common prejudices of his nation,

as to have overcome that darkness which supposed religion to consist in the mere formality of the ceremonial law.

He understood that love was the great thing neededthe great thing in which all true religion consisted

- "Being in the neighborhood of Jesus is sharing Jesus' freedom to invite - to make our lives and our communities places of welcome for those most deeply in need of solidarity, of fellowship."
- -Rowan Williams, Being Christian

Be inclusive always

When meeting someone What can I learn from this person?

How can I love this person?

