

A Culture of Honour  
Two bible narratives  
Part 2 of 2

Brookside Church  
20<sup>th</sup> July 2014

# **Lessons from the bible**

**OT:**

- **Mephibosheth**  
- honouring the disabled

**NT:**

- **Zaccheus**  
- honouring the disreputable

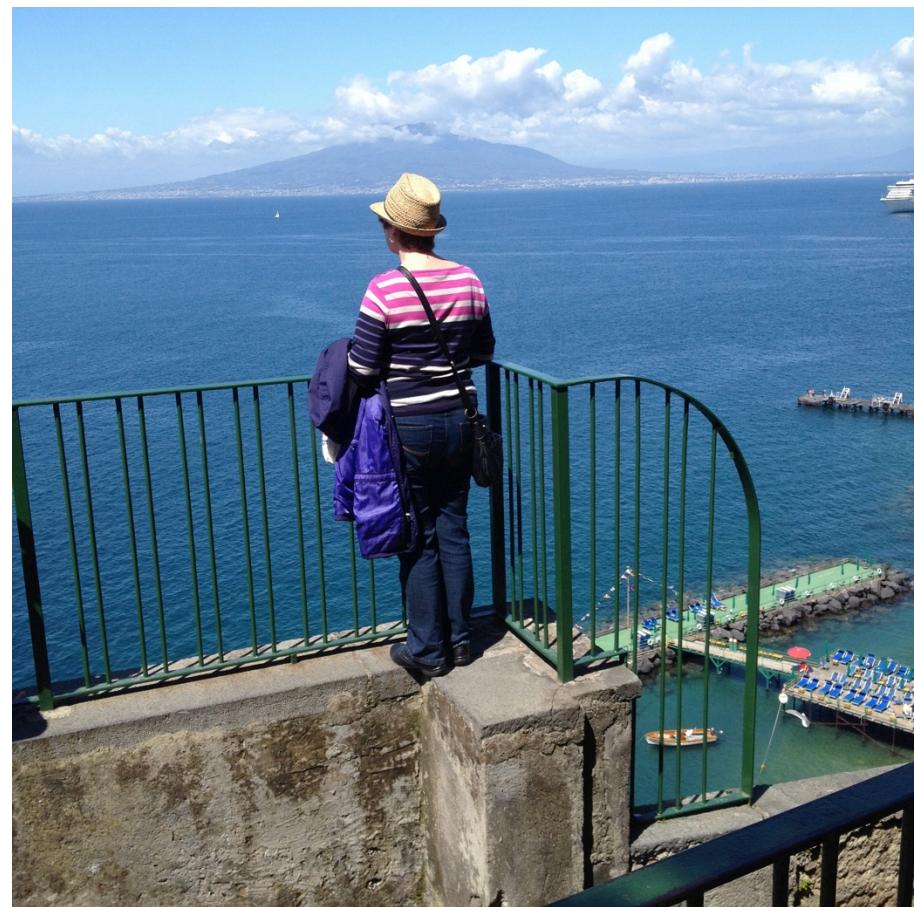
# Holidays



# Amalfi Coast



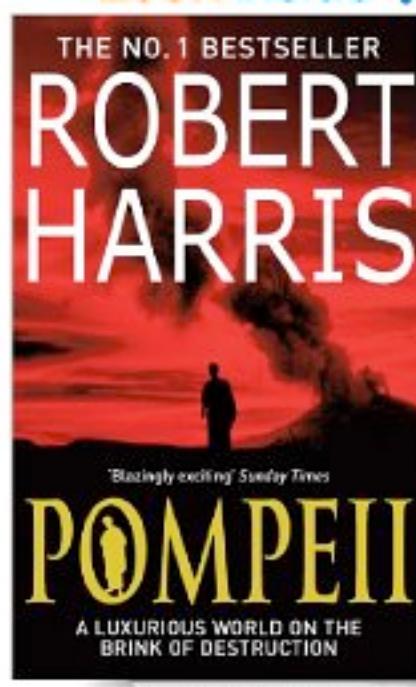
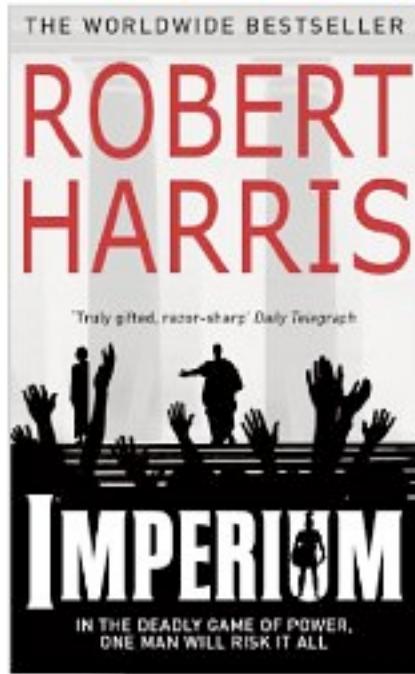
# Sorrento



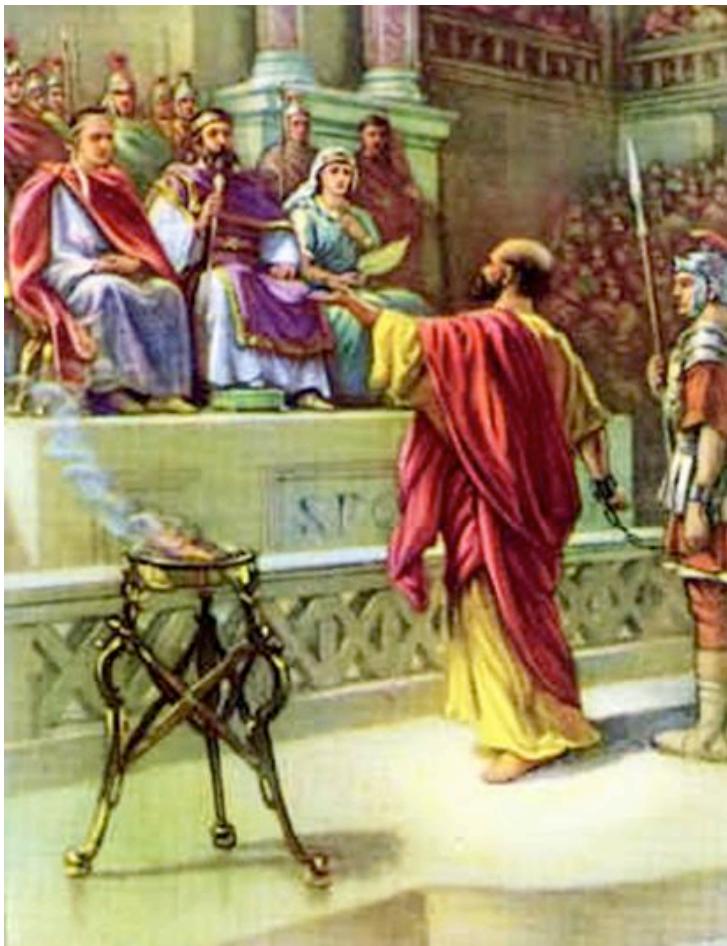
# Pompeii & Heraculaneum



# Holiday reading



# Roman rule & taxes



# Zacchaeus

**Luke 19:1-11 (NIV)**

## **Zacchaeus the Tax Collector**

19 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup> A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. <sup>3</sup> He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

<sup>5</sup> When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” <sup>6</sup> So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. <sup>7</sup> All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.” <sup>8</sup> But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

# Impact and outcome

- Impact of Jesus' act of honouring Zacchaeus
  - Zacchaeus life transformed
  - Honouring the poor
  - Justice for those wronged

# ADDRESS OF POPE FRANCIS TO THE UN SYSTEM CHIEF EXECUTIVES BOARD FOR COORDINATION

*Friday, 9 May 2014*

*Mr Secretary General, Ladies and Gentlemen,*



I am pleased to welcome you, Mr Secretary-General and the leading executive officers of the Agencies, Funds and Programmes of the United Nations and specialized Organizations, as you gather in Rome for the biannual meeting for strategic coordination of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board.

....

With this in mind, I would like to remind you, as representatives of the chief agencies of global cooperation, of an incident which took place two thousand years ago and is recounted in the Gospel of Saint Luke (19:1-10). It is the encounter between Jesus Christ and the rich tax collector Zacchaeus, as a result of which Zacchaeus made a radical decision of sharing and justice, because his conscience had been awakened by the gaze of Jesus. This same spirit should be at the beginning and end of all political and economic activity. The gaze, often silent, of that part of the human family which is cast off, left behind, ought to awaken the conscience of political and economic agents and lead them to generous and courageous decisions with immediate results, like the decision of Zacchaeus. Does this spirit of solidarity and sharing guide all our thoughts and actions, I ask myself?

Today, in concrete terms, an awareness of the dignity of each of our brothers and sisters whose life is sacred and inviolable from conception to natural death must lead us to share with complete freedom the goods which God's providence has placed in our hands, material goods but also intellectual and spiritual ones, and to give back generously and lavishly whatever we may have earlier unjustly refused to others.

The account of Jesus and Zacchaeus teaches us that above and beyond economic and social systems and theories, there will always be a need to promote generous, effective and practical openness to the needs of others. Jesus does not ask Zacchaeus to change jobs nor does he condemn his financial activity; he simply inspires him to put everything, freely yet immediately and indisputably, at the service of others.

....  
Invoking divine guidance on the work of your Board, I also implore God's special blessing for you, Mr Secretary-General, for the Presidents, Directors and Secretaries General present among us, and for all the personnel of the United Nations and the other international Agencies and Bodies, and their respective families. Thank you very much.

# Conclusion

- Who are today's disreputables?
  - Any examples of them being honoured?
- What would Jesus do?

A culture of honour:

- Honour the disreputable?
  - You never know what the outcome may be!