

**Out of the depths I cry to you,
O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your
ears be attentive to the sound of my
supplications! Come, O Lord, I am
waiting for you today; my soul waits
and in your Word I put my hope.**

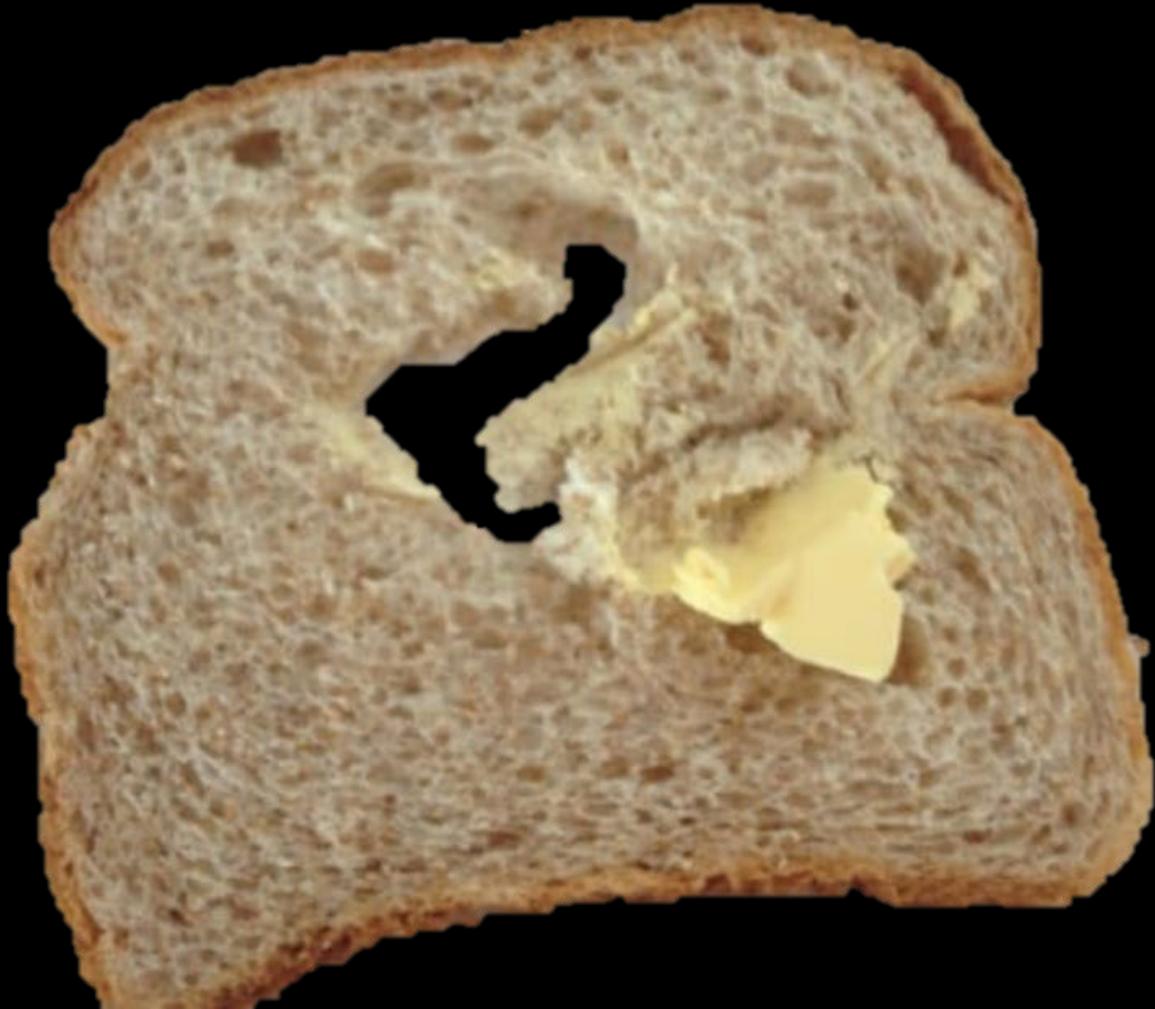
Amen.

Inhabiting The Story

- 5th Sunday of Lent -



***“I feel thin, sort of stretched, like
butter scraped over too much bread.”***



J.R.R. Tolkien
The Fellowship of the Ring

*Who am I and
What does God want me to do.*

The Gospel According to
LUKE

and to set forth
which are most

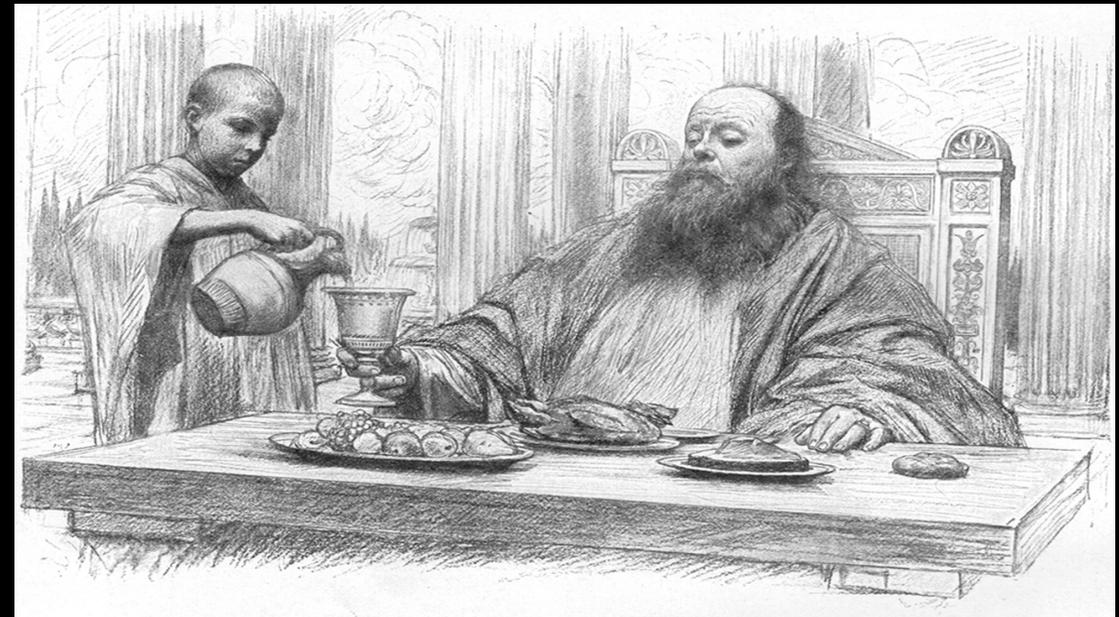
which from
sters of the
perfect

lot was to burn
of the Lord
10 And
with



1. I don't bring anything to the table; I'm poor!

2. To follow means to trust; to take a leap of faith.

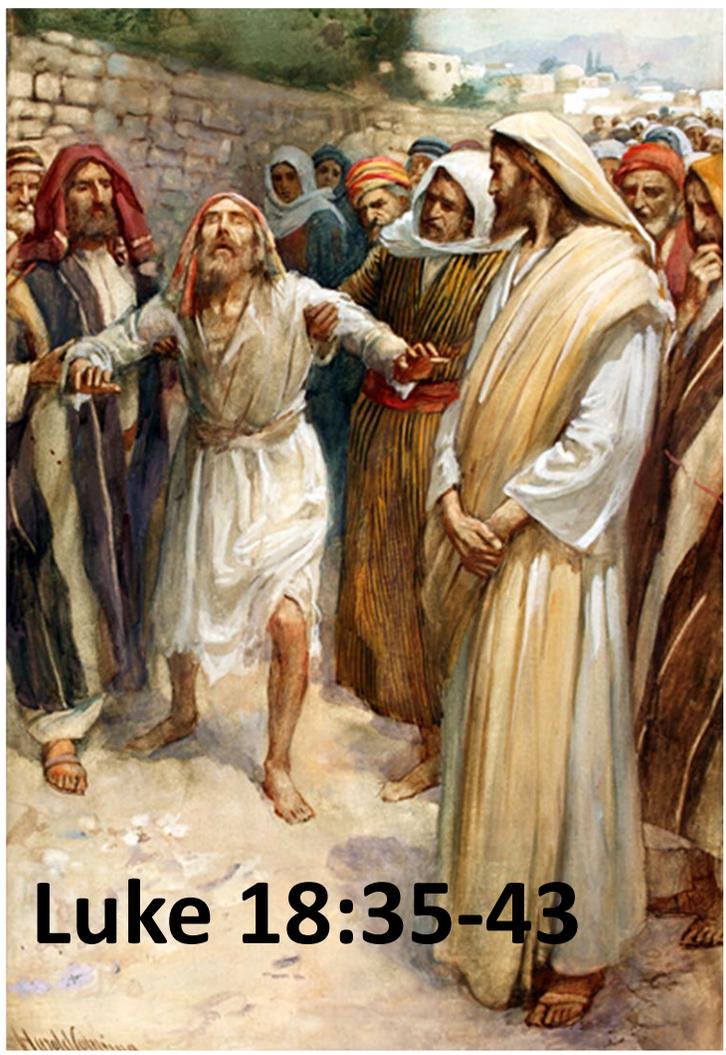
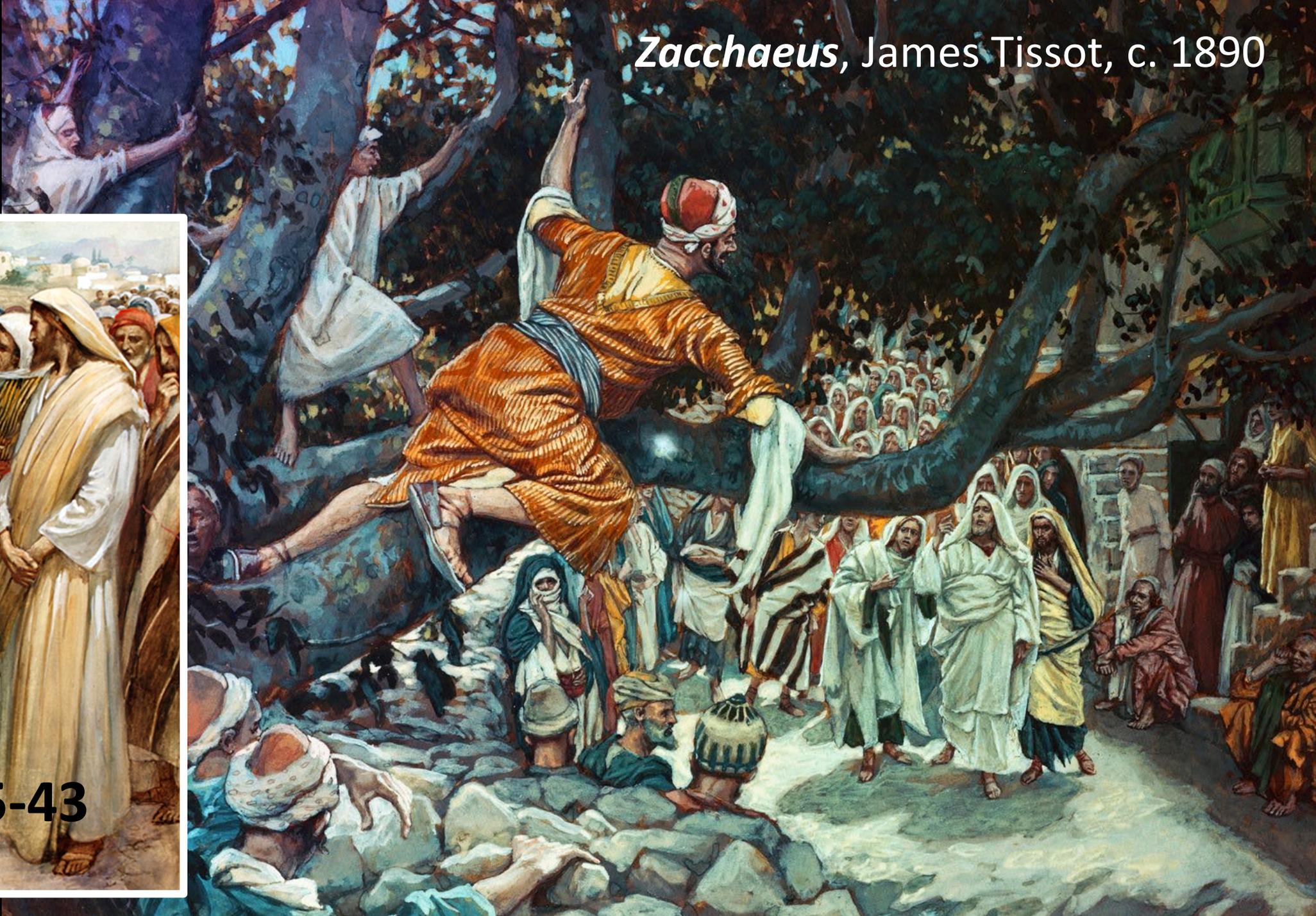


"Christ and the Rich Young Ruler"
by Heinrich Hofmann, 1889.

***Sell everything
you have and
give to the poor,
and you will
have treasure in
heaven.***



Zacchaeus, James Tissot, c. 1890



Luke 18:35-43



The Exhortation to the Apostles, James Tissot, c. 1890



Ruler
Wealthy

in / out ✓

Tax collector
Sinner

in / out ✓

Zacchaeus was all!
in / out



Both are:

- desperate
- willing to embarrass themselves
- can't see
- disliked by the crowd



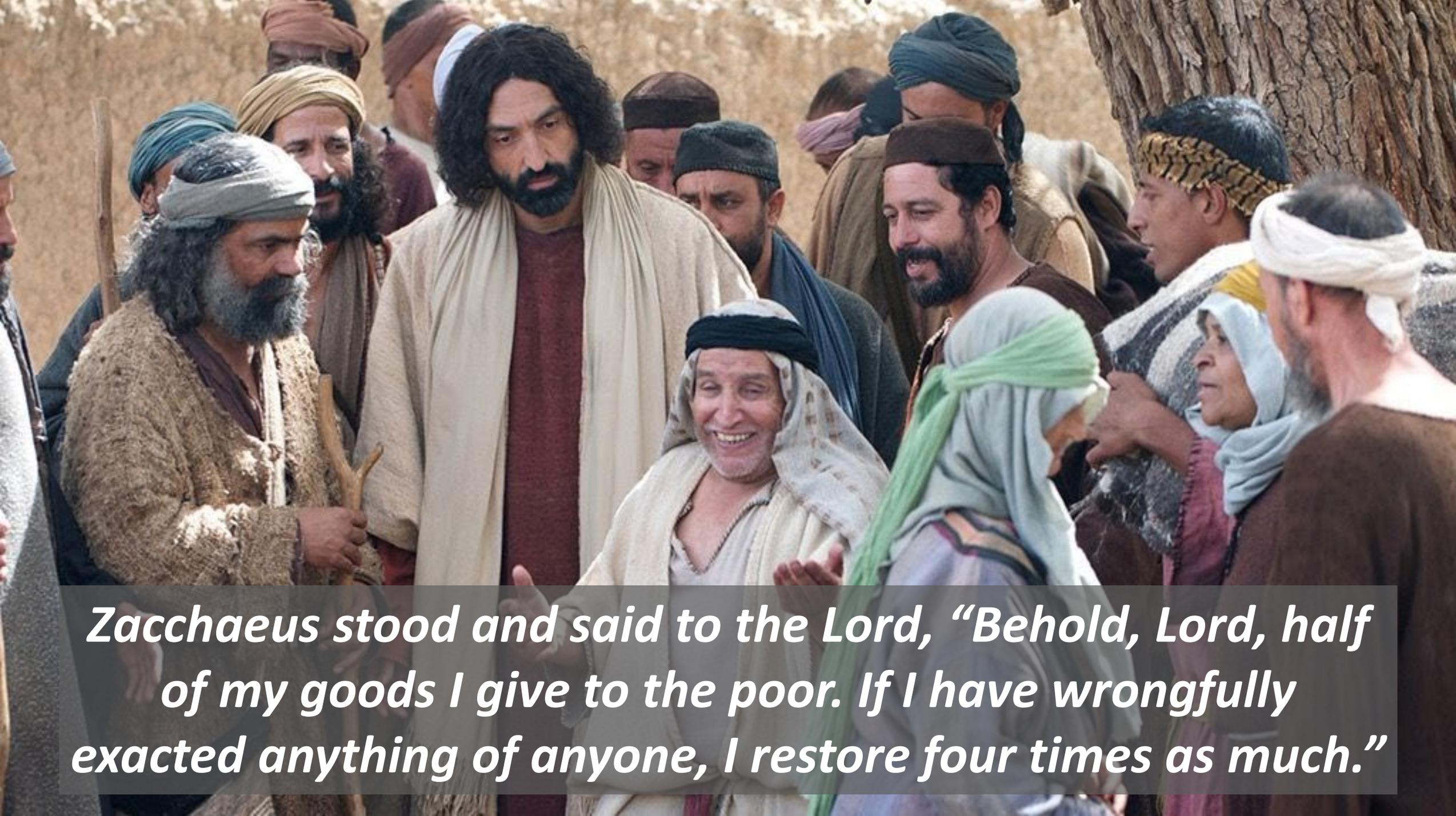
Which one is the “pious poor”?

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces.

You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to.”

Matthew 23:13





Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my goods I give to the poor. If I have wrongfully exacted anything of anyone, I restore four times as much."

***Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not
God chosen those***

who are poor in the eyes of the world

***to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he
promised those who love him? But you have
dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who are
exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are
dragging you into court? Are they not the ones
who are blaspheming the noble name of him to
whom you belong? James 2:5-7***



You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble." James 4:4-6

Jesus eating with Zacchaeus

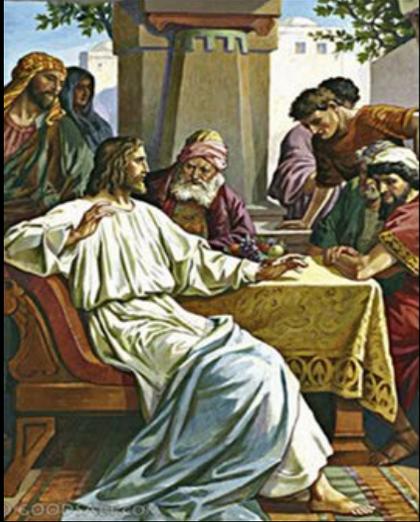
“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

*“Today salvation has come to this house,
because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.”*

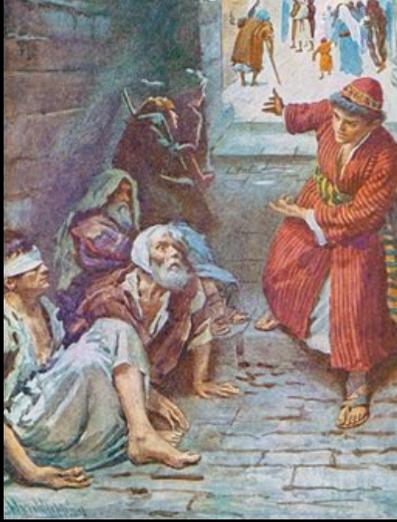




**Jesus eats with
Pharisees**



**the Great
Banquet**



**Parable of the Lost sheep,
coin and son**



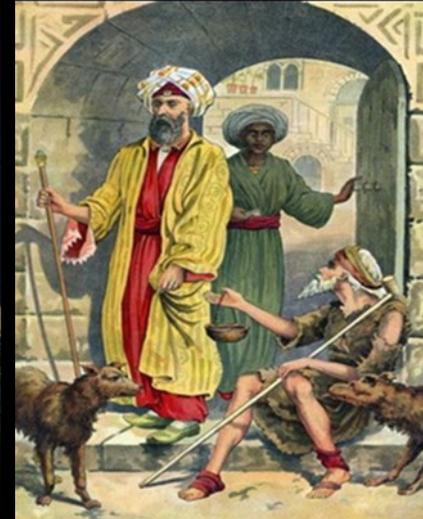
**the Shrewd
manager**



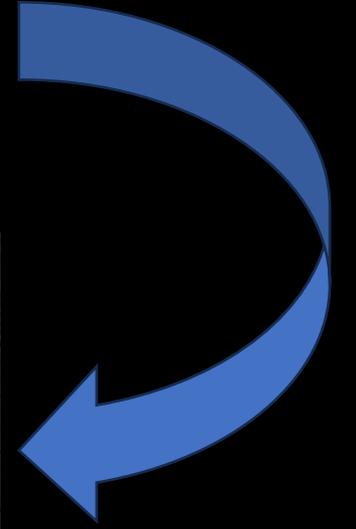
**Jesus eating with
Zacchaeus the tax collector**



**The Rich
Ruler**



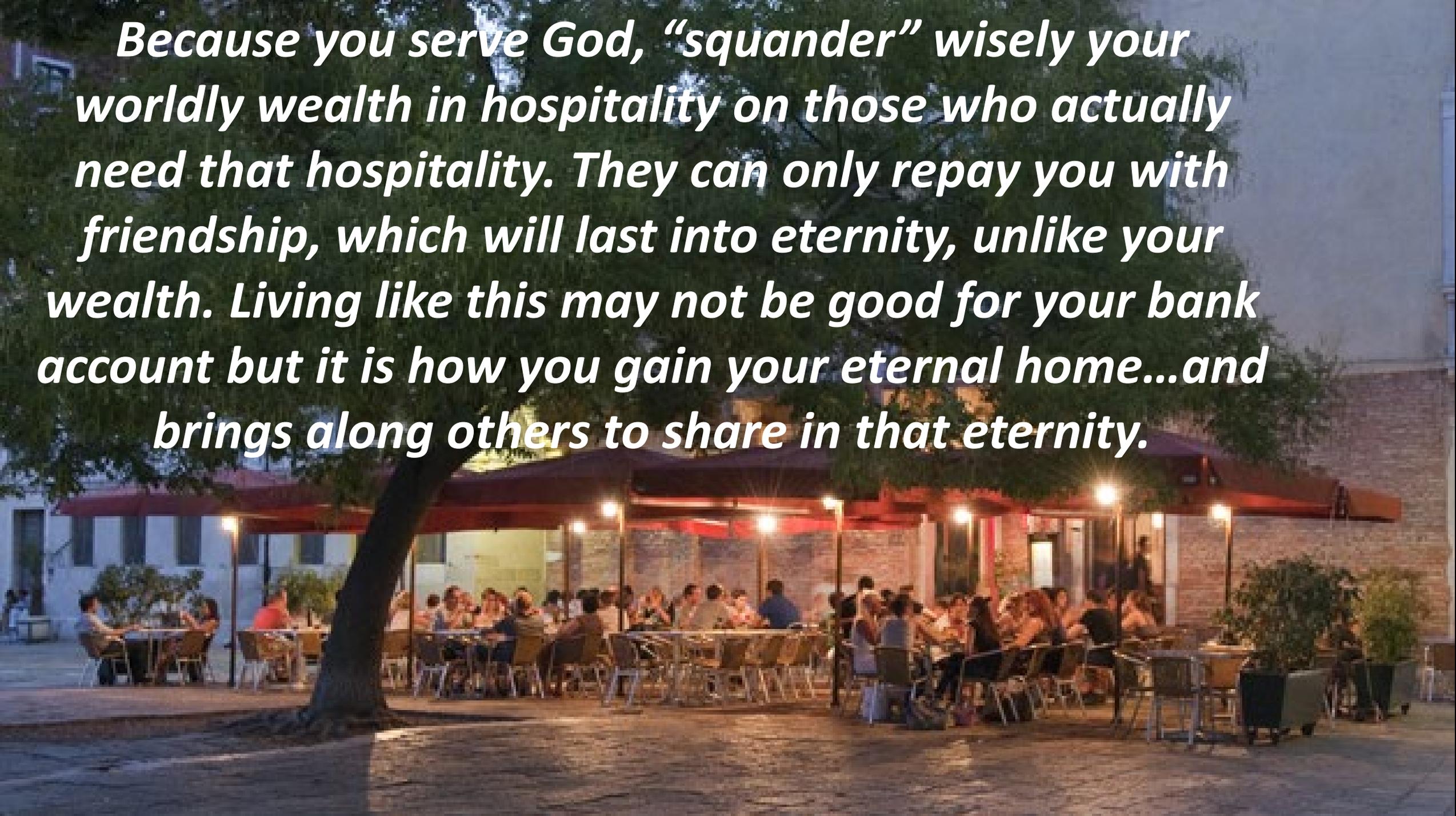
**Lazarus and
the rich man**



- 1. Extend hospitality to those who need it***
- 2. Be like your Father and be recklessly generous***
- 3. With your wealth, make friends with those who can't repay...kinda like God the Father!***
- 4. Assume all you have belongs to God***
- 5. Assume all God has is already yours***
- 6. Plan as if your retirement plan is eternity***

You are wealthy! Live like it!

Because you serve God, “squander” wisely your worldly wealth in hospitality on those who actually need that hospitality. They can only repay you with friendship, which will last into eternity, unlike your wealth. Living like this may not be good for your bank account but it is how you gain your eternal home...and brings along others to share in that eternity.



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O Jesus, you who welcomed sinners and embraced the lost, I turn to ask once again your mercy and to receive once more your grace; help me to forgive anyone who has harmed me and to reconcile with those from whom I am estranged. I ask this, O Lord, in light of your steadfast love and your great power to redeem. Amen.