

A Ministry of Salvation

Read Luke 8:26-39; 19:1-10

As New Testament Christians, we normally think of *salvation* as forgiveness of sins. But remember that the biblical meaning is broader than that. Salvation is deliverance from anything that binds, pinches, or oppresses us. As we trace *save*, *Savior*, and *salvation* through the life of Jesus, we find that full range of meaning. Here are a few examples:

Matthew 8:25 Jesus saved His disciples from the storm on the Sea of Galilee when He spoke peace to the violent wind.

Matthew 9:21-22 Jesus saved the woman with the hemorrhage when He healed her. Throughout the gospels, the Greek word often translated as “healed” or “made well” is actually the word “saved”. For example, here Jesus literally says, “Courage, daughter. Your faith has saved you” (v.22).

Matthew 10:22 Jesus assures His disciples that though the coming persecution will be severe, *“it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved”* (NASB).

Matthew 14:30 When Peter began walking to Jesus on the water, then doubted and started to sink, he cried out, *“Lord, save me!”* (NASB). And Jesus saved him.

Luke 8:36 When Jesus cast the unclean spirits out of the Gerasene demoniac, the witnesses ran and reported how the demon-possessed man had been saved.

Luke 19:9-10 When Zaccheus agreed to reimburse everyone he had cheated, Jesus announced, *“Today salvation has come to this house”* (NASB).

John 3:17 Jesus told Nicodemus that *“God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world [that is, to condemn the world], but that the world might be saved through Him”* (NASB).

Matthew 27:42 The Jewish leaders ridiculed Jesus’ self-sacrifice when they taunted Him on the cross: *“He saved others; He cannot save Himself”* (NASB).

Jesus shows us a Father who cares about all our needs and has come to deliver us from each one. The salvation God is bringing in Jesus is complete and forever. But note that it is still in process. All these statements are biblical and true: we were saved; we are being saved; we will be saved. His complete salvation from all that binds His people is still in process. As wonderful as our present salvation is, it has only just begun.

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