

Zacchaeus

Luke 19: 1-10

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

[5] When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." [6] So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

[7] All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.' "

[8] 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."

[9] Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. [10] For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

Lessons of the Story

1. Zacchaeus teaches us that when you make a solid effort to experience Jesus, you are rewarded. It means seeking him with all your heart and doing everything he would have you do!
2. Don't make a judgment based on appearance. Far too often we make a judgment about someone based on how someone looks or acts. This makes us impotent to help someone change their lives.
3. Don't make a judgment based on reputation. People gain a reputation for better or worse from the lives they have lived and the reports that have been spread about them. When you hear a negative report from someone, ask God to help you withhold judgment.



Important Background

Zacchaeus was a tax collector and in those days tax collectors were hated and often thought of as cheaters because they'd take extra money for themselves from the people.

Service Ideas

Prayer

Dear Lord, Thank you for your kindness, love and mercy. We are so grateful to you that when we confess our sins you are faithful and just to forgive our sins. We are so sorry Jesus for the times when we have said things that we should not have said, gone to places that have made you unhappy and treated people unkindly. I repent for not following in your ways. In Jesus' name. Amen

4. Practice looking into a person's heart. Can you see someone's heart? God will help you with that! The closer we follow Jesus, the more we are able to see into someone's heart.

5. Focus on seeking and saving the lost. We are surrounded by people who don't know or follow Jesus. I am convinced that the very best life comes to us when we follow him. Are you? I want to help people find that life. When we do that, God changes lives and we become participants in that transformation!

Church Happenings

Devotional/Journal Time

Zacchaeus was lost, until he found the Jesus that had been looking for him. He was changed because of who Jesus is, not because of who he was.

So, who is Jesus? What is Jesus like? What do we learn about Him from this passage?

We learn five very important things:

- Jesus knows our names (v.5). – Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but imagine his surprise when Jesus called his name. Imagine how felt knowing that Jesus not only saw him, but called him by name to come down.
- Jesus welcomes, sees, and saves (v. 5 & 10). – Jesus welcomes those who want to see Him. There is not an instance where anyone who wholeheartedly sought Jesus wasn't welcomed by Him.
- Jesus sees value in every person. While the crowds were grumbling, Jesus was welcoming. Jesus knew Zacchaeus mattered. Jesus knew Zacchaeus. And when Zacchaeus saw the Jesus that knew him, he changed. We are valuable and Jesus invites us to find out just how much and why.
- Jesus saves those who seek Him. While Zacchaeus sought Jesus, Jesus saw him. Jesus has said He came to seek and save those who are lost (v.10). Jesus isn't interested in ignoring His children. Jesus will always find those who seek Him.
- Jesus wants to be with you (v. 5). – Jesus told Zacchaeus that He must be his guest in his home that day. Jesus must be a guest in your home today. Jesus wants to be in your home today! Of all the places, God wants to be in your home today. He wants to be in your heart today.

Understand this, Jesus knows your name, just like He knew Zacchaeus in the Bible. Jesus sees you even before you seek Him. He welcomes you and saves you. Jesus wants to be with you.

Do you want to be with Him? Will you invite Him as He welcomes you?

*taken from <https://devotableapp.com/daily-devotion-lessons-from-zacchaeus/> written by: Chanel Moore

Music Suggestions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sc6SSHuZvQE> ← Reckless Love by Cory Asbury

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lv5JiNZ6rhY> ← Burn The Ships by For King and Country

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Yr48BerkqC> ← Rescue Story by Zach Williams