

Following Jesus
Little man, big change
Luke 19:1-10

I. Message

a. Zacchaeus was a rich little tax collector – v.1-3

- i. Jesus is passing through Jericho and encounters a rich little tax collector
- ii. Big crowd, little man
- iii. Equals a problem for Zacchaeus
- iv. Because...

b. Zacchaeus was seeking for truth – v.4

- i. He REALLY wanted to see Jesus
 1. It wasn't a very dignified move for a Jewish man to run
 2. It certainly wasn't dignified to climb a tree
 3. But he was **seeking**
 4. He was determined to see Him – “he sought to see Jesus” – v.3
- ii. A lot of people really DO want to see Jesus
 1. Their lives may be TOTALLY messed up
 2. They might be despised by society
 3. They might not even know what they are looking for
 - a. Answers, Peace?
 - b. Meaning, Truth?
 4. All things found only in Jesus
 - a. They are seekers
 - b. Interesting that the Bible teaches us that no man seeks after God on his own
 - i. **Romans 3:11**
 - ii. **John 6:44**

c. Zacchaeus was noticed by Jesus – v.5

- i. This whole scene was appalling to the Jews
 1. Zacchaeus was UNCLEAN
 2. For Jesus to eat with him was taboo to the Jews
- ii. But Jesus had the advantage of being able to see this man's heart
 1. He not only knew his name without introductions
 2. He knew his **heart**
 3. And he knew he was ready to be saved

d. Zacchaeus was a known sinner – v.6-7

- i. Zacchaeus was one of the worst kinds of Jews.
 1. “Compared to what?”
 2. The religious leaders
 3. Remember, they had created their own version of “good”
 - a. And they had set themselves up as the standard
 - b. Compared to them, Zacchaeus was the WORST!
 - i. Because Zacchaeus was a publican (a tax-collector)
 - ii. These “publicans” essentially made their living by
 1. Supporting the Roman government...
 2. And stealing from their fellow Jews
 3. Jews hated publicans
 - iii. Worse than a publican, Zacchaeus was the chief among the publicans (v.2), meaning he got a cut from all the other tax collectors
 - iv. AND, he was loaded
 - v. Now the only thing worse than a chief tax-collector in a Jews mind is RICH chief tax-collector
 - vi. AND... he had a real problem religiously
 1. Because of his association with Rome and his **flouting** of the law, he was banned from the synagogue as unclean
 2. Not only the place of worship
 3. But education, social gatherings, politics

e. Zacchaeus was truly converted – v.8-10

- i. His obedience demonstrates what is going on in his heart
 1. Remember that this is a principal of Scripture
 2. Obedient actions always follow an obedient heart
 3. **Proverbs 4:23 “[Out of your heart] are the issues of life.”**
 - a. Jesus said to make haste (v.5), so he made haste (v.6)
 - b. Jesus said to come down (v.5) so, he came down (v.6)
 - c. Jesus said he wanted to visit his home (v.5), so he joyfully welcomed Jesus into his home (v.6)
 - i. This was not just passing interest and curiosity
 - ii. This was a response to Jesus’ Lordship
 1. Whatever you say, Jesus
 2. I will do completely and immediately
- d. Zacchaeus must have become a true follower, a believer, during the dinner conversation
 - i. Because, notice what happens in v.8
 - ii. **“8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor;**

and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.”

iii. “Jesus, you are my LORD”

1. So, I will give half of what I own to the poor
2. I will make right any wrong I have committed
 - a. The old life was already “passing away”
 - b. A new life was being lived

II. Conclusions – what can we learn from this account?

a. Jesus’ conclusion first – salvation includes repentance

i. “9 And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house...”

1. His actions demonstrated that he WAS saved (probably during dinner)!
2. He became a true son of Abraham – **Galatians 3:6**
 - a. A repentant attitude comes from a changed person
 - b. This is not easy believing, but real commitment.
 - c. **James 2:18**

ii. True disciples obey immediately and completely

b. Don’t look over anyone for Gospel outreach. Jesus often saves those that everyone else discounts

i. He can see the heart!

ii. “10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

iii. Zacchaeus was JUST the kind of person Jesus had come for!

1. This word “lost” means completely ruined, doomed
 - a. Totally messed up people
 - b. That is who Jesus saves!
 - c. People dying from sin, ruined by sin, separated by sin
 - d. **Ephesians 4:18 “alienated from the life of God”**

2. You have I have no idea what God will do with a life

3. There is no one we should discount for redemptive relationships.

c. Bonus: Communion Celebrates BOTH!

i. Repentant sinners from different backgrounds

ii. Celebrating salvation together in Christ