

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus Loves Lost People

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.
2 Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. 3 And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." 6 So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. 7 But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."
8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."
9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham;
10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

I grew up in a neighborhood in Santa Ana in OC that had a fair amount of kids who lived there

A) We played a lot of ball – a couple of kids had pools & we would swim – **but one game we liked to play at night was Hide & Seek**

B) I loved that game – I got into it- I would dress in all black or dark green –

1) I would find some dark place under a bush or a car up in a tree to hide

C) I was good at holding my breath & not making a sound – when one of the seekers came near my spot

D) It was awesome to hear those – words – Olly olly oxen free

1) I had no idea who made that up – but I loved what it meant

E) YOU ARE TOO GOOD – WE GIVE UP WE CAN'T FIND YOU

1) Kids love to play Hide & Seek – My Kids –

Do you know that grownups still play hide & seek

A) They hide from their problems / Conflicts / emptiness/ they hide from other people

B) And MANY try to hide from God – But God is an expert seeker

C) In V.10 of this passage here in Luke 19 Jesus defines what was His mission in coming to the World. V.10 **the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."**

D) This is the only time recorded where Jesus spoke these words

1) yet they are a PROFOUND REVELATION – HIS MISSION TO THIS WORLD

E) HE CAME TO SEEK & TO SAVE THE LOST!

Garden: After Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit – they realized they were naked – sin destroys innocence –

A) They were ashamed – Sin brings guilt – and so they hid themselves

B) But God came seeking – Adam -where are you – not the cry of a Cosmic cop but a heart broken father

C) He was coming to restore/ to fix what MAN had broken!

In our passage today – we see Jesus seeking after a lost person named Zacchaeus –

A) Let's consider this man Zacchaeus
Zacchaeus was a tax Collector

B) Tax collectors were Jewish men who worked for the Roman government?

1) So they were seen as sell outs – traitors –

C) The tax structure in Rome was over bearing. – It took a lot of money to fund the Roman Machine

1) So they had Taxes for everything

D) The Tax system of Rome:

➤ **Poll tax** – Taxed for being alive – Male 14-65 and you were breathing – you paid this tax – breathing Roman air

E) Income tax – 10% of income went to the Government

The Tax system of Rome:

- Import tax – goods obtained from somewhere else
- Road tax – upkeep of roadways
- Harbor tax– use of the harbors

Like Fishing?

- Fish tax – tax on the # of fish you caught
- Ground tax – 10th of all grain / 5th of all wine
- Cart tax – Sold merchandise from a cart taxed
- Wheel tax – taxed for every wheel on your cart

A)So if you have a four-wheel cart, it's just not good economy.

1)Go get a wheelbarrow, you'll save yourself money

B)But The most perplexing thing about the Taxes of Rome was nobody knew what the tax structure was.

C)The Roman government simply said to the tax collector, "You have to raise this much money from your district for us.

1)Whatever you can make above and beyond that, you can pocket."

So, you can see that such a position would lend itself to a great deal of abuse.

A)Tax Gauging – charge higher percentages /norm

B)Notice our text tells us V.2 that Zacchaeus is the Chief tax collector – and he was rich –

C)He made a great living ripping people off – Hated by the people.

D)In fact 2000 yrs ago in Judea when they were naming the worst criminals

1)Thieves, murderers, and tax collectors – same category

E)They were barred from synagogue worship.

1)**They were regarded as the scum of the earth.**

So politically speaking this guy is HATED – he is a sell out – crook

A)Modern day perspective as far as the disdain the people felt for Zacchaeus think – Fauci - Newsome

B)We are also told he was of was of Short stature – little guy – Danny DeVito

A)Danny DeVito with Fauci's head -

Ironic: you know what the name Zacchaeus means:

A)Pure, innocent, righteous. – Complete opposite

B)That would be like saying the name Khardashin means -CHASTE

C)Zacchaeus is not living up to his name – he is the most hated guy in the entire city

What does Jesus do to seek out Zacchaeus?

A)1st He went out of his way to reach this lost man!

B)19:1 Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.

1)Jesus is on the road from Galilee heading toward Jerusalem – about to enter the final week in the life of our Lord -

C)As HE was traveling down that road it wasn't necessary for him to pass thru Jericho in order to get to Jerusalem

1)He could have passed right by - but He didn't why?

D)There was a DIVINE APPOINTMENT – WAITING THERE

Similar to John. 4 – Jesus replies – I must go thru Samaria -

A)Jewish people avoided Samaria like the Plague – Jesus said I need to go there! Why? –

B) Divine appointment: A woman with a shady past and present – outcast – loose woman – A lost sinner

C)Jesus has an encounter with Jesus that changes her whole life

1)DIVINE APPOINTMENT

D)Zacchaeus is going to have a similar encounter

In both of these stories John 4 and here in Luke 19

A)Jesus goes out of his way to reach a lost sinner

B)If we are going to be effective in seeing LOST SINNERS – GET FOUND

1)We also / need to be willing go out of our way!!!!

C)We need to be open to being Led by the Spirit – to go out of our way –

1)to step out of our comfort zone !!!!

D)Pastor Chuck with the Hippies – Rip up the carpet

E)He embraced their music – welcomed their dress
1)Welcomed them in with open arms and the rest is History!

What does Jesus do to seek out Zacchaeus?

A)1st He went out of his way

3 And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. -

4 So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way.

B)Interesting picture: In that culture Men didn't run

1)Government officials don't run and they don't climb trees.

C)Zacchaeus is acting like a curious kid running down the street, like, "Hey, there's a parade.

1)I want to see." Climbs up in a tree to see.

Cc)When I was growing up – in O.C. – my parents had a rule when my brother & I were young –

1)Had to stay on the side walk

D)We could ride our bikes down the street & around the corner as long as we remained on the side walk

E)Well one day when my Younger Brother Al got lost - took off & we couldn't find him

1)We were yelling – neighbors were yelling – he was nowhere to be found –

Suddenly a man who lived in the cul-de-sac around the corner from us came and asked us if we were looking for a LITTLE BOY

A)We said yes / he replied I think I found him follow me

B)So we followed this guy – to his house & there laying on the door step of his house is Albert

C)He was FAST ASLEEP !!!!!

1)Albert was totally lost – but He didn't know it

The Bible tells us that some people are asleep spiritually –

A)As a result they are LOST IN their sin – they don't even realize it !!!

B)Saul of Tarsus the Pharisee was lost in RELIGION 1)Rich Ruler – Goodness /

C)Zacchaeus – lost in his wealth, his greed, his power

5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him,

What does Jesus do to seek out Zacchaeus?

A)2nd HE SAW HIM

B)Now when others looked at Zacchaeus – THEY SAW A tax collector a thief and a traitor

JESUS SAW A MAN:

A)Good for us to hear: we see a prostitute: Jesus sees a woman.

B)We see a drug dealer or gang banger – Jesus sees a troubled kid

C)We see a person engaged in Homosexuality - Jesus sees a mixed up man or a mixed up woman

D)If we are going to be used to help lost sinners – get found- **we need to see them the way that Jesus does.**

5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house."

What does Jesus do to seek out Zacchaeus?

1st He went out of his way

2nd HE SAW HIM

3rd He sought friendship with Zacchaeus

This is the only time in Scripture that we ever hear of Jesus inviting himself over to somebody's house, and for a meal.

A)Zacchaeus come down from there – **it is lunch time and I am going to have lunch at your house.**

B)This is HUGE don't miss this: In that culture to eat with someone considered **to become one with them.**

1)Dip the bread in the same sauce – like we do chips and salsa – becoming one

C) Jesus is offering to become one with and (to be friends with) the most notorious sinner in Jericho.

1) To eat with a sinner in that culture would mean you would become ceremonially unclean.

And he does it right out in front of the whole crowd for all to see.

A) Zacchaeus probably didn't have many friends in Jericho and the few he did have probably were not real public about it

B) They weren't posting on their IG page – Going to Zacchaeus house for dinner tonight –

C) Jesus does it out in the open for all to see – He is not ashamed to be seen with lost people.

Two responses to this invitation: Zacchaeus and the crowd

A) Zacchaeus' response: **6 So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.**

B) "Yes, Jesus! I'd love to be your friend!"

1) You wanna eat with me? Let's go right now." Excited and amazed!

C) **The Crowd 7** But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."

The crowd, not joyful. AT ALL

A) They're not Tweeting, "Yay! Jesus wants to be friends with Zacchaeus

B) That is Amazing - We're so excited!"

C) They are grumbling complaining – gossiping – can you believe it - "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."

D) A similar thing happens at the conversion of another tax collector – Matthew –

1) worth looking at reveals something else about Jesus outlook

"Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" one with sinner

¹² When Jesus heard *that*, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ But go and learn what *this* means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to

call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." Matthew 9:11-13

In that story Jesus doesn't just identify himself as the savior seeking lost sinners but the Physician seeking after the sick "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

A) Interesting statement: You know if you think about it, becoming a Christian is very similar to getting Healed of a disease, - SIN IS...

Aa) Sin is the deadliest of all diseases – **wages of sin is death and the soul that sins will surely die – 100% death rate – no human cure**

B) When it comes to physical sickness -You will never get cured of a disease until you first admit, I'm sick." - I need a doctor.

C) Some people are real stubborn thought – I am not sick – I don't need to go to the doctor

1) Then something tragic happens to get their attention.

D) Same thing is true spiritually – before you can be made well – you need to admit – I am sick

1) I am a sinner and I need a savior. – Doctor

So Jesus says it is the sick who need a doctor and I am the doctor making a HOUSE CALL!

A) Series – who does Jesus love? Lost people – spiritually sick people.

B) He goes out of his way to reach them –

1) He is willing to become one with them – in order to save them.

C) Jesus literally became one with us.

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21

D) So Jesus heads off to Zacchaeus' house

Now there is a gap of time between v.7-8/ we are not sure the exact details of the lunch conversation

A) We don't know what was talked about in the house –

B) We will have to wait until we get to HEAVEN to find out the exact details.

C)But we see the results of the conversation leads to a full conversion in the life of Zacchaeus –

1)True repentance

8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.”

C)The evidence of his repentance –

1)turning from Sin and turning to Jesus is seen in his desire to not just make restitution –

D)But to do it generously/ way beyond what was required

This is how it worked according to the OT law:

A)if you had stolen something, if you voluntarily confessed

B)You were required to pay back that person what you stole from them plus 20%

C)If you stole an animal – say horse you were required to pay back double. – Two horses.

D)Note Zacchaeus – I will pay them back 4 fold

1)Someone steals your bicycle out of the garage – they come back with a BMW

Note something important: Restitution is not penance.

A)Penance is the false teaching that you have done something and you need to pay God and others back so that you can be forgiven. That’s not true.

B)This has actually nothing to do with being forgiven in the sight of God.

1)This is evidence that you’ve received God’s forgiveness.

C)Godly sorrow over our sin results in repentance

1)180 turning from our sinful behavior and turning to God

D)New creation in Christ Jesus – old things have passed away – all things become new

1)Your new nature, your new heart

And as a new person u should want to do all you can to right your wrongs, to help those you’ve harmed,

A)Not so that you would be acceptable in God sight, but because you are!

B)Because Jesus has called you a friend/ you want to show kindness to others –

C) To be a friend to others as he’s been a friend to you. That’s restitution.

Zacchaeus’ life has been touched by the generosity of Jesus

A)Jesus gave Zacchaeus Forgiveness of sin, eternal life, and a new nature.

B)What did Zacchaeus do? Nothing.

C)What did he pay? Nothing. Zacchaeus just got the gift of salvation.

D)He responds to the generosity of Jesus by saying: I want to be generous too – half of my wealth I am going to give to the poor!

Prior to this, Zacchaeus lived a life that was marked by the phrase “how much can I get?”

A)Now his life would be Characterized by the Words how much can I GIVE

B)Before – Mastered by GREED / NOW MASTERED BY GRACE

C)Core value at CV – blessed to be a blessing –

1)Zacchaeus – he got it – he is walking in it

So What does Jesus do to seek out Zacchaeus?

1st He went out of his way – he entered and passed through Jericho: V.1

2nd Jesus saw Him

3rd He sought friendship with Zacchaeus V.5

4th Jesus validates Zacchaeus’ conversion V.9

9 And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; 10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

What meant a Son of Abe? Lit - True son

A)Abraham is considered the Father of the Faith – Founder of the Jewish nation – God’s promise.....

B) Many Jewish people in that day believed that because they were ethnically / nationally related to Abraham –

1) They felt that they would be allowed to enter the Kingdom of God

C) Jesus is shedding light here on that misnomer Truly this man is a Son of Abraham – because of His FAITH

Now this provides for us a very interesting Point THEOLOGICALLY SPEAKING

A) See Paul declared in Romans 4 that Abe – believed God & it was accounted to Him for RIGHTEOUSNESS / JUSTIFIED

B) The ref. is from Gen. 15 when God told Abe that He would give him a Son – despite his old age
1) Sarah's barrenness

C) We are told that Abe believed God – didn't consider his old age or the deadness of Sarah's womb

1) Abe took God's word at face value - & it was accounted to him as RIGHTEOUSNESS / JUSTIFIED

D) And in Romans Paul is using that occasion in the life of Abe to illustrate this theme that a person is Justified by faith alone – apart from the works the law

Ephesians 2:8, 9 **For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.**

So in Romans and in Ephesians Paul builds this case – Salvation is by faith apart from Works –

But then James comes along and writes something that on the surface seems to contradict Paul – James 2:17 - Faith without works is dead!

A) YOUR FAITH has to have works attached to it

B) What is interesting is that James also uses an event in the life of Abraham as his proof text –

1) Abraham's faith is seen by his works

C) James points to Genesis 22

1) when Abe was willing to take His son Isaac / sacrifice him on MT Moriah – because God told him too.

D) The writer of Hebrews adds this insight – Abe did so believing God would raise him from the dead –

1) if he had him go through with it

E) God didn't have Abe go thru with it – but this was a test of Abe's faith

F) Abe passed the test – James is revealing that proved that Abe's faith was genuine -

1) James sums up his teaching - Faith without works is dead:

¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. James 2:18

Is James contradicting Paul? No! What James is saying is meant to compliment what Paul taught

A) This principle: We are saved by faith and not by works, but true is a faith that is evidenced by its works. –

B) This is what Jesus means when he says – Zacchaeus is a true son of Abraham –

1) his faith was being evidenced by his works.

C) True faith is a faith that works – that has action attached to it –

1) Not just a belief or a profession – it is seen in action.

D) You today- Is your faith just a profession or is it evidenced by actions – works?

LEARN TODAY:

A) If we are going to be used to help lost people meet Jesus we will need to be willing to:

1. Go out of our way to reach them – comfort zones
2. See them – see them the way Jesus does
3. Be friend them – most effective evangelism

Close today let me just say this: The Bible says that in a spiritual sense all of us are of short stature

A) Romans 3, "All of sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.":

B)None of us can measure up to the standard of God.

C)So in a spiritual sense, we're all -- short people. We're all short of stature.

D)Jesus went out of his way to reach us – left heaven came to this earth – became a man

**D)Cross – became one with our sin – took it upon himself – Became sin –
My God... forsaken me**

E)Offer us forgiveness of sin – freedom from guilt – Friendship

Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone will open the door, I will come in and dine with him."

Faith in Action – open the door –

A)Embrace Jesus – walk with him today?

B)Cry out TO JESUS TODAY – Whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved!