

Lessons from Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10 1 And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. 2 And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. 3 And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. 4 And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. 6 And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. 7 And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. 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. 9 And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

- a) Zacchaeus was rich yet the Lord associated with him. God is not against the rich but is against letting riches hinder a person from relationship and intimacy with the Father.
 - i) If riches are a barrier, then it's a problem, but if riches are a tool, resource for the kingdom and not a barrier, then we have a problem.
 - ii) Jesus was in for Zacchaeus' benefit not His. He saw a man seeking after Him and gladly and publicly associated with a sinner and rich man to extend mercy and forgiveness to the sinner.
 - iii) Also notice how Jesus dealt with this sinner and rich man (Zacchaeus) versus the 'godly' rich young ruler (Mark 10). Zacchaeus had riches, while the rich young ruler's riches **had** him.

- o When the Lord was telling him to give away all his riches it was a good thing for him. His heart was not in the right place. Jesus was not after or against his riches but was after him having his heart in the right place and having God above his riches.
 - o Zacchaeus' money was not his god as we see his self-initiated repentance while the rich young ruler had his money as his god.
- b) He sought to see Jesus—who he was. How many people had heard about Jesus yet never sought to see Him?
 - i) **Zacchaeus went an extra mile to do that. He was determined. This was faith on his part.** Say what you want, laugh if you like, a rich man was determined to see Jesus.
 - o He was not going to be stopped not by the opinions of the Jews who hated tax collectors let alone the chief of them all—Zacchaeus.
 - o This is an attitude we need to experience the Lord. We need to be willing to go as far as we can to do that jumping over minor barriers.
 - ii) Notice also that he ran before and climbed the sycamore tree.
- c) Notice there was “the press.” I don’t know if it was fake news press, but they were there and were a hindrance for Zacchaeus to see the Lord. Just like the press today, they were a barrier.
- d) Zacchaeus was little in stature. Another way of saying that is he was a little man. He was a short man—vertically challenged or limited yet he cared less.
 - i) He was going to see Jesus and who He was.
 - ii) Don’t let your limitations hinder you from seeing and seeking the Lord. If you have a desire to see and know the Lord, He will not walk by you.
 - iii) That day, only one man went an extra mile to see the Lord and was greatly rewarded and recognized.
- e) Jesus slowed down and noticed the extraordinary. This was intentional on His part.

- i) He was not in haste, and this positioned Him to see what could have eluded others.
 - ii) He walked slowly among the crowds and the people to meet their needs. He looked up and not only saw in the physical but also in the spiritual.
 - iii) I want to believe that Zacchaeus had things to do, yet he put all that aside for him to see Jesus.
- f) Jesus called Zacchaeus by name. He had never met him. He knows your name and mine. This was a word of knowledge in operation.
- g) Zacchaeus was asked by the Lord to make haste and come down and he did. He responded to what the Lord asked him to do. This opened him up to receive from Him.
 - i) Zacchaeus came down fast and received the Lord joyfully. The Lord has to be received joyfully. He is not an intruder, nor does He force Himself on people. He has to be received.
 - ii) Zacchaeus was seeking to know the Lord which is why he received Him joyfully and Jesus saw that while others saw a sinner whom Jesus should not have associated with.
 - iii) Salvation came into his house that night. Jesus abided in the house of Zacchaeus that day.
- h) What the people saw and criticized was Jesus did and said, but they did not know the sacrifice Zacchaeus made to be able to see Jesus.
 - i) Zacchaeus was a sinner; these people should have been rejoicing that he got an encounter with the Lord. Though he was rich, he was lost just as the poor were. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).
- i) Zacchaeus repented when Jesus came to His home. Repentance is a byproduct of experiencing Jesus and His love for us.
 - i) Zacchaeus repented before anyone asked him to.