

Series: Making Much of the Master (His Encounters)

A MAN NAMED ZACCHAEUS

LUKE 19:1-10

Text:

Introduction:

I could ask almost any child present today to tell me the story of Zacchaeus and receive a pretty detailed account. Perhaps this story is so popular with children because it involves one of their favorite activities—climbing trees. Or maybe kids like this story because they find it so unusual for a grownup to climb a tree. But whatever the reason, this story is well known and loved by children.

In thinking upon the biblical account of Zacchaeus, I was reminded of the simplicity of the story and how it excited me as a child. But as I looked deeper, I noticed some profound parallels with divine truth that may be overlooked, due to the story's familiarity and simplicity.

This Bible story reveals not only a sinner who found himself literally up a tree, but also the deep love and concern of the Savior who knew how to deal with the sin that had put him there. We see in this account the ability of Jesus, not only to reach down to the down and out, but also to reach up to the up and out. Jesus can save a person without regard to their station in life.

Let's look closely at this familiar story today and dig out some of the treasures found here.

Note:

1. THE POTENTIAL PROBLEM OF HIS MEETING THE SAVIOR

Note:

A. His Social Status Could Have Been a Problem

- He was a man of high position

Luke 19:1-2

*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.***

- He was a man of many possessions

Not only could his social status be a problem but also:

B. His Short Stature Could Have Been a Problem

Luke 19:3

³ And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.

Zacchaeus' physical shortness is representative of his inability and insufficiency in approaching a holy God.

Please don't miss the Holy Spirit's point in mentioning this detail.

The only way Zacchaeus was able to meet Jesus was by going to the sycamore tree.

The tree is still the only place the lost sinner can meet the Savior.

By faith trusting Christ's finished work on the cross is the only means of salvation from one's sins.

1 Peter 2:24

²⁴ Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Note Luke 19:7

Luke 19:7

⁷ And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

Note not only the Potential Problems of Meeting the Saviour but also:

2. THE PRECARIOUS PLACE OF HIS MEETING THE SAVIOUR

Zacchaeus Climbed A Tree To See The Savior.

Zacchaeus wanted to get acquainted with Jesus.

Luke 19:4

⁴ And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.

The Lord wanted to abide with Zacchaeus

Luke 19:5

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.

Note not only the Potential Problems of Meeting the Saviour and the Precarious Place of His Meeting the Saviour but also:

3. THE POSITIVE PROOF OF HIS MEETING THE SAVIOR

A. The Actions of Zacchaeus Proved He Had
Been Saved

Luke 19:8

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.

Giving was a new experience for Zacchaeus. He was used to taking, not giving. Now he promises to give half of his possessions away to the poor.

Zacchaeus was admitting that he had extorted money.

Zacchaeus offers to repay fourfold those from whom he had extorted money.

According to Leviticus 6:5 and Numbers 5:7, the only restoration of the principal with 20% interest was required.

Zacchaeus imposed upon himself the penalty for robbery.

Note Exodus 22:1

Exodus 22:1

¹ If a man shall steal an ox, or a sheep, and kill it, or sell it; he shall restore five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep.

Not only did the Actions of Zacchaeus Prove that He Had Been Saved but also:

B. The Announcement of the Saviour Proved He Had Been Saved

Luke 19:9

⁹ And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

The mention here of Zacchaeus being a “son of Abraham” is a reference to the faith of Abraham, which God placed to his account for righteousness.

Galatians 3:7

⁷ Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

Close:

The story of Zacchaeus illustrates:

THE POTENTIAL PROBLEM OF HIS MEETING THE SAVIOR

THE PRECARIOUS PLACE OF HIS MEETING THE SAVIOR

THE POSITIVE PROOF OF HIS MEETING THE SAVIOR