

## Zacchaeus

### Introduction

#### Luke 19:1-10

1. This is the account of a rich man by the name of Zacchaeus.
2. Zacchaeus was a chief publican--whose name means, "the true or just."
  - A. He overcame much and received the Lord's own word that he was saved.
3. The setting is Jericho. This has been referred to as the "Eden of Palestine."
  - A. With the mountains of Moab serving as the Eastern backdrop. Rose gardens, a luxurious fortress and palace built by Herod the Great and son.
  - B. It was an important trade center, balsam a chief product and a city of beauty, roses, sycamore trees, palms.
  - C. It is here that one finds a large customs house, with Zacchaeus, being the chief publican. Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.
4. There are many things about him and his circumstances that help us understand a lot about ourselves. This morning, let us consider some things about Zacchaeus:

## His Need of Salvation

- 1. The success that Zacchaeus enjoyed was not enough then nor is it enough now.**
- 2. Sin is the common curse of mankind and salvation is the great equalizer.**

Romans 3:23 for **all have sinned** and fall short of the glory of God,

Jude 3 Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to **contend earnestly for the faith** which was once for all delivered to the saints.

- 3. Please observe that after Jesus told Zacchaeus that salvation had come to his house, He said these words:**

Luke 19:10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and **to save that which was lost.**"

- 4. The first lesson from Zacchaeus is that we all need more than wealth and success in this life.**

## Hindrances He Overcame

- 1. His wealth.**

- A. Jesus had just said:**

Luke 18:24-26 And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, **"How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!** For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?"

- B. Far too often riches lead to indulgence and indifference about salvation.**
- C. It is not the riches of themselves that are evil; it is the trust one puts in those riches which hinders one in being saved.**

1 Timothy 6:10 **For the love of money** is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

**PATRICK HENRY:** "I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one thing more I wish I could give them and that is faith in Jesus Christ. If they had that and I had not given them a single shilling, they would have been rich; and if they had not that, and I had given them all the world, they would be poor indeed."

## **2. His occupation.**

- A. Every Christian should ask, does my job hinder my salvation.**
  - 1) In the case of Zacchaeus' occupation as a chief publican, most probably expected graft, dishonesty and bribery from such a position.**
  - 2) But Zacchaeus, evidently was free from such.**
- B. One may work that which is good, or let a job overcome the good influences of God's Word.**

## **3. His physical limitations: smallness overcome by climbing a tree.**

- A. Anyone thoroughly earnest about their soul will allow nothing to hinder them.**
- B. Jesus looks at the heart--not the outward man.**

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## **Blessings He Received.**

- 1. Salvation. Deliverance from the penalty of sin.**
- 2. Fellowship with the Lord.**
- 3. The same is available to every person today.**

1 Timothy 2:3-4 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who **desires all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- A. We learn from the word of God that salvation is conditional. One must abide in the "doctrine of Christ."**

2 John 9-10 Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in **the doctrine of Christ** has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him;

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## The Response He Made

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1. **I give half of my goods to the poor.**
  - A. **“The present, 'I give,' expressed the fixedness of his resolve; for however the distribution of his goods is still in the future, that future to him is as though actually present.”**  
(R.C. Trench, Studies in the Gospel, p. 275)
  - B. **“A purpose, not a past habit.”**
2. **“If I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.”**
  - A. **This is more than all Jews were legally bound to do.**

Numbers 5:7 then he shall confess the sin which he has committed. He shall make restitution for his trespass in full, plus one-fifth of it, and give it to the one he has wronged.

- B. **Here is the fruit of a completely changed man.**
- C. **A change can take place in anyone -- if one is willing to come to Christ on His terms.**

## Conclusion

### 1. The publicans were excommunicated by the Jews.

Matthew 18:17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector.

A. They were not allowed in any part of worship, nor any religious exercise of the Jews.

B. But Jesus calls him also "a son of, Abraham."

### 2. The greatest lesson from this small man is that earnestness of spirit will prevail.

A. Half-heartedness or mere impulsiveness of action will fail.

### 3. The right attitude: "God be merciful to me a sinner."

A. It is quite possible, even likely, that Jesus had Zacchaeus in mind in this parable.

**Luke 18:9-14**

### 4. Jesus wants all of us to hear His great invitation! Listen to it and respond in a positive way as Zacchaeus did.

A. Eternity, a home in heaven, awaits all those who do!

Matthew 11:28-30 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

