

Luke 19:1-10 – Following Jesus

Introduction



Zacchaeus. Tax collector. Wealthy. Short in stature. This is a picture of the tree they believe that Zaccheus climbed in Jericho. It's amazing to think about Jesus looking up into the tree and seeing a man sitting there – a man desperate to see Christ.

How desperately do you want to see Christ?

Luke 19:1-10 – Zaccheus

Warming Up

1. Think of a stranger you briefly interacted with today (a cashier clerk, someone next to you in a queue, etc.). What do you remember and how would you describe that person?

Into the Passage

Zaccheus

2. In verse 1 Jesus is only passing through Jericho. Where is he going? What is the context of the progression?
3. From what Luke tells us about Zacchaeus, what do we know about him?
4. Why do you think Jesus stopped in verse 5? What did he see in Zacchaeus?
5. How would you feel if you got what you hoped for as Zacchaeus did in verse 6?
6. Do you think the crowd had a right to grumble?
7. What was the impetus for Zacchaeus to give so much away in verse 8?
8. What does Jesus mean 'salvation has come to this household' (verse 9)?

Moving Forward

9. Why do you think it appears that Zacchaeus was able to change so suddenly? How do you think he was able to give so drastically?
10. What would people say of your life and reputation? How much does it matter what other people think and say?
11. In what way was Jesus' action shocking to the people around him? What would be the equivalent in our culture today?

Life Together

12. Could you say that you are “seeking to see who Jesus is”? What would that mean in your life?

Spend some time praying and sharing for one another in your groups.

Luke 19:1-10 - Some Leader's Notes

These notes are primarily for the Into the Passage portion, and are to be used just as guidelines or commentary notes. Most of them are my own thoughts, so take that with a grain of salt. Let the Word of God lead you to truth, not these notes. Don't place too much focus on them, and let the Bible study discussion lead primarily from the passage itself.

Into the Passage

Read Luke 19:1-10

2. In verse 1 Jesus is only passing through Jericho. Where is he going? What is the context of the progression?

Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem actually. And he goes to Jericho, and then to Bethany, and then into Jerusalem, where he will eventually be crucified.

And as Jesus is passing through, he meets Zacchaeus in this tree.

The story of Jericho (Joshua 6) is about a fortified, wealthy city, that was taken in victory by the Israelites. The city was given as a first-fruits offering to Christ. I love the imagery of Zacchaeus, high up in a tree, with his heart fortified from years of pain – and then as Jesus arrives, the walls around Zacchaeus' heart come down and he comes down from the tree and into Christ. And even more wonderful is that he then gives his own wealth as a first-fruits offering to Jesus.

3. From what Luke tells us about Zacchaeus, what do we know about him?

He's rich, works as a tax collector, and is short in stature. We can probably infer that he's disliked (as the crowd calls him a sinner), and that he is agile enough to climb a tree.

Interestingly, Zacchaeus is a Jewish name, which means Righteous one. However, as a Jew working for the Roman (gentile) government, and taking (or cheating) taxes from his own people, he was probably looked despised.

4. Why do you think Jesus stopped in verse 5? What did he see in Zacchaeus?

Jesus sees Zacchaeus truly & deeply. He doesn't judge Zacchaeus the same way the world sees him, but he calls him by name, and welcomes

him in.

5. How would you feel if you got what you hoped for as Zacchaeus did in verse 6?
6. Do you think the crowd had a right to grumble?

I think a crowd would grumble about anything. But they judge Zacchaeus based on his reputation (cheating/taxcollector/shortguy) and they judge Jesus on his reputation as well (teacher/holyguy/possible messiah). But none of the crowd are personally interested in Jesus or Zacchaeus. Except that Zacchaeus is personally interested in Christ, and Christ is interested in Zacchaeus.

7. What was the impetus for Zacchaeus to give so much away in verse 8?

Zacchaeus receives Jesus joyfully – and the Greek word that Luke uses is “chairō” – which Luke uses in other situations as the type of joy and rejoicing with salvation. Zacchaeus immediately understands that Jesus is Lord. And so when the crowd begins to grumble – when they begin to defame Jesus's name – he immediately steps up to defend the name of Christ. It's not Zacchaeus' honour that's being defamed, it's Jesus. Zacchaeus gives his all to defend the honour of Christ.

8. What does Jesus mean 'salvation has come to this household' (verse 9)?

For the crowd, they may have seen Zacchaeus the Jew as a wayward son who had fallen away from the hope of salvation. But Jesus demonstrates grace. The grace of Christ that redeems the lost or wayward. And the implication is that Zacchaeus' transformation will affect those around him as well.