

Break through Social Barriers

Introduction to the passage. This will be two or three sentences prepared by the preacher in advance and printed in the "Sermons" google docs under "Synopsis."

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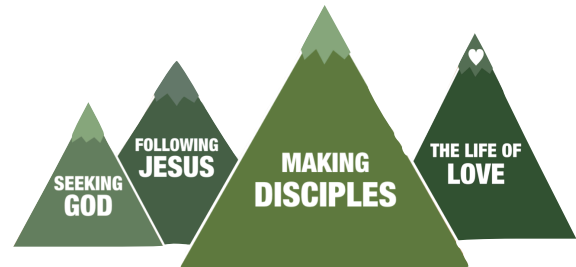
Answer People's Questions

Point Others to Jesus

Making Disciples

Declare Your Loyalty

Live Authentically



Jesus and Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham.

For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Observations

Not only was he very rich as the chief tax collector he worked for the hated Roman occupiers and viewed as a traitor to his own people.

He really really wanted to see Jesus. When was the last time you saw a rich man climb a tree in public?

In the Eastern church tradition this passage of scripture is used just before the beginning of Lent. Jesus' call to come down symbolizing the divine call to humility.

The gospels contain story after story of Jesus in the company of outcasts.

In contrast to the rich young ruler who followed all the commandments but refused Jesus' request to give away his wealth. Luke 18



Your Notes *what God is saying to you:*

Application *for abundant living:*

Jesus Christ came to seek out and to save the lost and now does so through us. Note how Jesus does this with Zacchaeus. So for one day to the degree you are able. See as Jesus sees. - Make an effort to “see” every person you encounter in a day. Name every person as a child of God. Share life. without judgment, agenda or expectation learn his or her story. Be blessed and be a blessing. - God desires that every one knows that God created them, loves them and wants to save them and you too.

Further Study *for a deeper understanding:*

Read: Bill Hybels book Just Walk Across the Room: Simple Steps Pointing People to Faith.
Henri Nouwen’s book Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World

Questions *for reflection or group discussion:*

Why did Jesus choose Zacchaeus out of the crowd? What made him different from everyone else?

Why do you feel people had such a negative reaction when Jesus chose to visit with Zacchaeus in his home that day?

How is your home welcoming to Jesus? How is your heart welcoming to Jesus?

What changes came over Zacchaeus after being saved by Jesus?

What is the significance of Zacchaeus climbing into the sycamore tree? Was it because his heart was seeking God? Is it that Jesus had begun working on Zacchaeus before even arriving to Jericho?

What does this Bible story demonstrate to you?

-Have you ever known anyone that when the odds were against them became saved like Zacchaeus experienced?