

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

If you could have dinner with any historical figure, who would it be and why?

What the Text Says

What details about how Luke describes Zacchaeus stands out to you?

What was the crowd's reaction when Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house?

Understanding:

How does this story illustrate the difference between religion and the Gospel?

Application:

Zacchaeus' idol was money; what are some common idols in our lives today?

How has encountering Jesus changed your perspective on possessions or generosity?

How/when are you tempted to see grace as an earned reward instead of the means of transformation?

Next Steps:

What area of your life might God be calling you to surrender to Him this week?

Missional Living:

How might Zacchaeus' story change the way we approach people who are seen as "sinners" in our society?

Finally, what did this parable leave you to think about?

SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

PARABLES

3: ZACCHAEUS

LUKE 19:1-10

TODAY'S VERSES:

Luke 19:1-10

Psalms 16:11

Isaiah 51:17

2 Corinthians 8:9

Philippians 2:1-11

2 Cor 5:21



READ: LUKE 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And 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 and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

3: ZACCHAEUS MESSAGE RECAP NOTES

Zacchaeus was despised by his community, yet Jesus sought him out and initiated relationship. This visible act of grace precedes any visible change in Zacchaeus' behavior, highlighting a crucial aspect of the Gospel: God's acceptance is not a reward for our righteousness, but the very power that enables our transformation.

Jesus doesn't wait for Zacchaeus to "clean up his act"; instead, He extends fellowship first. Zacchaeus' response to Jesus' grace is remarkable. Without any command from Jesus, he voluntarily pledges to repay any wrongs he has committed against others. This generous act stems not from obligation, but from a heart transformed by encountering Jesus.

The story reveals that our struggles often stem from idolatry. Idolatry is placing something other than God at the center of our lives. Zacchaeus' idolatry of wealth led him to betray his community, but an encounter with Jesus freed him from this bondage.

Ultimately, this narrative is a picture of the Gospel. Just as Jesus sought out Zacchaeus, He seeks us as we are lost (and idolatrous). The transformative power of Jesus' work on the cross leads to generosity and a readiness to bless others, mirroring the grace we have first received.