

The Gospel According to Luke

ZACCHEUS

PART 10

Making things right

READ: LUKE 19:1-10

INTRODUCTION

Most people who have been to Sunday school will be familiar with the story of Zaccheus. There was an entire song sung about him and his stature. What we see in Scripture is a man who desires to see who Jesus was and, because of his height, he had to climb a tree. He was desperate to know who this person was that so many people had told him about. What is amazing is that he was willing to do whatever it took to get to just have a glimpse of this Man. In our own lives it is important to have the same veracity when it comes to knowing who Jesus is. He desires to be knowable and wants to have a relationship with us and it is key that we climb any tree to be able to see just a glimpse of Him.

Being a tax collector was not a popular job for a Jewish person and so the people were not favorable to Jesus eating with Zaccheus. Note that Zaccheus' sin was what people were concerned about and that Jesus would go to a sinner's house was outside of their socially acceptable norm. This is something that we see Jesus do regularly in that He spent time with sinners which made the people uncomfortable. The most important thing about Jesus spending time with sinners is that He never condoned their sins but He showed them what forgiveness is and how they could know the Father. He does the same for us today.

The story takes an interesting turn when Zaccheus comes down from the tree and immediately tells Jesus that half of his possessions would be given to the poor and that he would repay anyone that he had wronged four times over. This is interesting because he knew that Jesus could forgive sins and yet was still willing to suffer the consequences of those sins. There are times when our actions have an effect on others. A person's sins can have consequences for others and when that happens it can be important to try to make restitution where it is needed. Lives are not lived in a vacuum. Sometimes other people are affected and when that happens, it should be made right.

ADVENT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the importance of trying to “see who Jesus is”? What can we do to better pursue a life that seeks Jesus?
2. What does it mean when we say that God is the unknowable, knowable God? What should we seek in our daily lives to know Him more?
3. What is a sin that we look at and think that people cannot be forgiven of? Why is it so easy to judge others when they have outward sins? How can we stop that judgement and start showing them love and care?
4. Why did Jesus spend time with sinners? What was His goal in meeting with them? What is the outcome of sinners getting to know Jesus?
5. What does it mean to make restitution in a Godly way? When is it needed? Are there times when it is not needed?

WRAP UP

Zaccheus was willing to climb a tree just to look at Jesus. He wanted the relationship. We need to be willing to “climb a tree” just to get a glimpse of Him. It is our desire to know Him more and more everyday. It should be our goal to grow a little closer to Him every day in the pursuit of righteousness and holiness. Christ is the One who saves us and we obey Him and seek after Him so that we can have better relationship with Him.