

Series: God's Life-Changing Truth – Part 11

Luke 19:1-10 ESV

Does Salvation Result in Major Change?

Wednesday, March 25 at 11:00 & 7:00

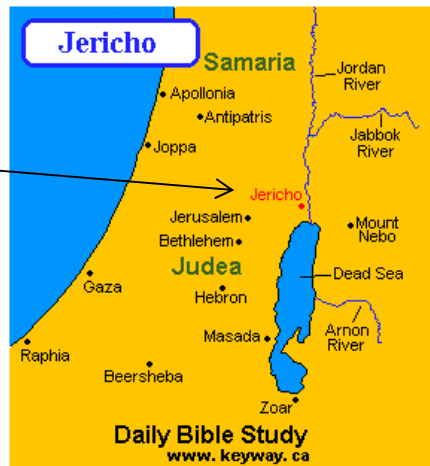
Sixth Wednesday of Lent – 2015

Holy Week: Thursday at 11 & 7; Friday at 11 & 7

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Last Sunday we saw a woman who was *known to have many sins* take radical action toward Jesus to express her *sorrow* and *gratitude*. Today we come to a man, *who has sometimes been called* “a wee little man,” by the name of Zacchaeus. This is today’s key question: Does salvation result in major change?

1. A Little Man with a Big

Desire: ¹ He [Jesus] entered Jericho [which is about 17 miles east of Jerusalem] and was passing through [to Jerusalem]. ² And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. ⁴ So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. //



- a. Chief tax collectors in general: They were Jews who worked for the despised Roman

government; furthermore, they were considered corrupt because they oftentimes collected more taxes than they were required to collect.

- b. Rich Zacchaeus: He was rich, → possibly because he collected too much or → possibly because of the lucrative production and export of *balsam*—a gum resin substance we know as turpentine, which was plentiful in Jericho.
- c. Determined Zacchaeus: He could have concluded: The crowd is tall *but I am short*, so I give up on seeing Jesus. But he was determined, so he improvised by climbing into a tree where Jesus would pass by. For us, *when it comes to Jesus and the Bible*, God wants us to be determined → to make time for God’s Word *each day* and → to believe in Jesus *no matter what!*

2. **Our Compassionate Savior:** ⁵ 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.” ⁶ So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. ⁷ And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” //



Zacchaeus by Niels Larsen Stevns. Jesus calls Zacchaeus down from his height in the tree.

Sunday we focused on *Simon the Pharisee* and *the sinful woman* (Luke 7:36-50). Zacchaeus was a little bit like both of them; like the sinful woman he was a *known sinner* and like Simon he

was interested in Jesus and wanted to know more! So Jesus, our compassionate Savior, accommodated Zacchaeus by looking up, taking notice of that wee little man, and expressing undeserved kindness by desiring to stay at his house. However, the crowd was unhappy; they may have concluded: It is incompatible for this great prophet to associate with this sinner. Whenever we begin to think the same, let us remember: ☹️ the people who are sorry sinners are ☺️ the people who are ready to receive Jesus as Savior.

3. **Some Amazing Fruits of Repentance:** ⁸ And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord [Jesus], “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” ⁹ And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” //

- a. Big changes for a small chief tax collector:
Though we are not told, it is apparent that God had worked both *godly sorrow* and *faith* within Zacchaeus. Then Zacchaeus, *being rich – having much more than he needed*, promised the Lord Jesus that he would give **half** of his goods to the poor. Furthermore, *if Zacchaeus had cheated any person out of anything*, he would pay that person four times that amount (for example: I cheated you \$10, here is \$40). The promises made by Zacchaeus did **nothing** to gain his salvation; instead, they flowed *joyfully from Zacchaeus* as a **result** of him having received God’s gift of salvation!

- b. A son of Abraham: Then Jesus called him “a son of Abraham,” *not because he was a son by blood*, but because he was a son by faith! This is God’s Word from Romans 9: ⁶ “...not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, ⁷ and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring... ⁸ ...it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring” (ESV). By *grace through faith* we have received God’s promise of forgiveness!
- c. Big changes for all who are saved: Jesus said these words to Paul: ¹⁷ “...I am sending you to them [to the Jews and Gentiles] ¹⁸ to open their eyes [from their spiritual blindness] and turn them from darkness to light [from evil to good], and from the power of Satan to God [from being powered by Satan to being powered by God], so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified [made holy in my sight] by faith in me” (Acts 26 NIV). Those are BIG changes!

Conclusion: Finally, Jesus said these words in the house of Zacchaeus: ¹⁰ “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” So, here at Bethlehem, we preach **God’s Law** to reveal sin and the reality of being lost; then we preach **God’s Gospel** – *the good news of Jesus* – so that all lost people can, by God’s work, receive exactly what they need: *The forgiveness of sins!* Let us rejoice that, *though we were lost*, we have been found! And all God’s people said: **Amen!**