

Are We Honoring Jesus as Lord – Part 9: Luke 19:1-10 ESV

What Are Your Acts of Repentance?



Services: Wednesday, March 9 at 11 AM & 7 PM

Church Year: Fifth Wednesday of Lent – 2016

During Lent: Wednesday Services at 11 & 7; Meals at 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Jesus, *when He spoke about heaven*, put all people into two categories – **the many** and **the few** ([Matt. 7:13-14](#)):

- **The many** *think they are okay*, but are actually deceived.
- **The few**, *by God's grace*, are actually on the path to heaven.

For **the many** and **the few**, *they are all sinners, so they do not deserve heaven*. But there is one important difference between *the many* and *the few*:

- The many are **unrepentant**; *they might seem like nice people, but they do not yet know Jesus* ([John 17:3](#)) and they are mostly living for themselves ([Mark 8:35](#)).
- The few are **repentant**; *God has worked in them a change of heart and attitude*, which shows in their various acts of repentance ([2 Cor. 5:17](#)).

Today, *as we focus on Zacchaeus*, let us marvel at his amazing acts of repentance!

1. **Zacchaeus Was Interested In Jesus**: ¹ [Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through. 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. Even though Zacchaeus was rich, he was still interested in Jesus: When people are rich – *like most Americans* – they can buy whatever they need, *so they have no need for God*. But Zacchaeus was different; how was God at work in his life? Did a loved one recently die; did he have a near-death experience. We don't know, but, *by God's grace*, he wanted to see Jesus!
- b. Zacchaeus thought things through:
 - i. Jesus route: Zacchaeus thought about the route Jesus would take, **and** he had tree-climbing abilities, *so he took immediate action to run ahead and climb a tree!* What is your desire to see Jesus?
 - ii. His route: Zacchaeus thought about his life and his death, *so he knew he needed more than money!* We are ready to live today, *but are we ready to face Jesus?*

2. **Jesus Was Interested In Zacchaeus**:⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must [δεῖ] stay at your house today.”⁶ So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully.

- a. Even though Jesus knew Zacchaeus was a sinner, He was still interested in him: Zacchaeus might have felt like his desire to see Jesus was a one way street, yet Jesus – *knowing the heart of Zacchaeus* – took special interest in him. In fact, *Jesus wants everyone to benefit from His work!*
- b. Even though Zacchaeus was not liked by others, Jesus was not ashamed to identify with him: Even though the people looked down on Zacchaeus – *thinking he was a BIG sinner*, Jesus ♣loved him, ♣talked to him, and ♣wanted to stay with him! The Bible says that *the kindness of God leads us to repentance (Rom. 2:4)!*

3. **The People Didn't Get It:** ⁷ **And when [the people of Jericho] saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." // Is everyone in the same boat or not?** In other words, *except for Jesus*, has everyone broken God's laws? "Yes!" *Except for Jesus*, is anyone good enough for heaven? "No!" The people didn't get those things; they knew **Zacchaeus** was a law-breaker, *but they didn't know they were law-breakers!*
4. **Zacchaeus Did Get It:** ⁸ **And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods [property, possessions] I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded [cheated] 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 [literally, because *even he is a son of Abraham*]."**

¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

- a. Do you get it? When people are known to be BIG sinners, some write them off by saying, “*Heaven is closed for them!*” In the minds of many, Zacchaeus was in that category, yet Jesus said that **even Zacchaeus, though a very unlikely candidate, is a son of Abraham** – thus he had the faith of Abraham, *the faith which receives God’s gift of righteousness!*
- b. What about acts of repentance? Oftentimes **money** is where *the rubber meets the road*; sometimes people are willing to attend and serve, *but money is a separate category.*
 - i. Did Zacchaeus see it that way? *By no means!* He gave away **half** of his possessions and promised to pay anyone he had cheated **four times** that amount!
 - ii. Do we see it that way? Is money in a separate category, **or** are we willing to
 - ◆ show our repentance and
 - ◆ honor the Lord *by following God’s Holy Word?*

Conclusion: Let us pray: Dear Father in heaven, every good and perfect gift comes from You (James 1:17), so help us to always *receive with thanksgiving and honor our Lord Jesus Christ with Bible-agreeing acts of repentance!* In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen!