

## **“Think Like Jesus”**

**1 Corinthians 2:14-16** *“The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For ‘who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?’ But we have the mind of Christ.”*

### **Intro:**

We have learned some very important things about our topic

- Like Jesus, you have the *indwelling Spirit of God* to empower your thought life.
- Like Jesus, you can view your life from the Father’s perspective. *“Heaven is open to me. The Spirit is empowering me. The Father approves of me.”*
- Like Jesus, you too are blessed with the assurance *the Father is working all things together for your good and the Father’s glory*”

Today, I want to turn your attention to an important passage that reveals a primary focus of the mind of Christ to us.

- The Story of Zacchaeus:
- **Luke 19:9-10** *“Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.’”*

### **Think Like Jesus:**

- Principle #3: *“Jesus thought about lost souls around Him and sought to save them.”*
- Jesus understood His mission in life.
- It was to seek out those who were lost.
- The word “seek” means to intentionally pursue and engage.
- Jesus didn’t have to go very far to find the lost in His daily life.
- Nor do you and I have to go very far to find the lost in our daily life.
- Zacchaeus was Jewish, but he was a chief tax collector for Rome, a traitor among his people.
- Zacchaeus had become rich in life, but he was despised by others; He was an outcast.
- But, Zacchaeus was making some changes that others didn’t notice, but God noticed.
- **Luke 19:1-10** *“Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.’ So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, ‘He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.’ Then*

***Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.'"***

What is revealed to us in this story?

Jesus didn't ignore Zacchaeus, or avoid him, Jesus took time for him.

- This is somewhat of a mega shift in our mindset.
- *"Jesus thought about lost souls around Him and sought to save them."*
- To shift your mind to think like Jesus, you must pray and declare, *"Since Jesus thought about lost souls around Him and sought to save them, I can too."*
- This shift will greatly please the Lord.
- This shift will greatly increase your fruit for Christ.
- People you see saved, healed, delivered, disciplined.
- For 3.5 years Jesus had to shift and transform the mindset of His first disciples, and not allow them to settle in the self-centered mind set!
- ***Acts 1:8 "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."***
- The first disciples became very fruitful and effective in the ministry of Jesus.
- You and I must make the same shift from being inward centered (what's always best and convenient for me), to being more outward focused (how can I seek out and engage the lost and lead them to Christ).

Jesus cut through all the prejudice, religious, and political haggling of His day, because He understood the value of a soul.

- ***"Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.'"***
- For you and I to think like Jesus, we must see others the way the Father sees them.
- No matter how much the world, religion, and politics wants to separate and divide you from others, you must *Think Like Jesus* and seek them out and help them find their way to God.
- ***"When they saw it, they all complained, saying, 'He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.'"***
- To *Think Like Jesus* you must value what the Father values!
- Jesus came to seek and save the lost, and so should you and I.

Question: *What should I begin to do to seek and save the lost?*

**Pray** ask the Spirit of God to lead you and put someone on your heart each day.

- As Jesus passed by, He looked up and saw Zacchaeus!
- As you go into work, Kroger, restaurant, class look up... make a declaration and a determination each day to intentionally **look** for an opportunity to engage someone in your **path** (*They might be lost, or hurting, or prospering*).

Invest some **time** in others whenever the relational-door opens (*build this into your life so your spouse knows it*).

- Jesus saw Zacchaeus up in a tree as He passed by, and took some time out of His day to spend it with him.
- Jesus went to his house and listened to his story.
- You can do that too.
- ***“Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.’”***
- You’ve heard the expression in business... *“Low hanging fruit”*?
- Zacchaeus was ready to receive Christ and hear His message. He was *“low hanging fruit.”*
- There are people around you too who are low hanging fruit!
- People whom God is leading you to this week.
- People who you might not have noticed before, or engaged before, but now, since you are allowing the mind of Christ in you to flourish, you will see with fresh eyes!
- Tomorrow and the next day... stop, pray, and engage that one.
- Bring salvation into that new relationship, or that old relationship!
- Show you care! Show yourself a friend to sinners.
- *Think Like Jesus* and *“Seek to save the lost”*!
- You will discover so much more of the supernatural power of God in your life, and overflowing joy in the Holy Spirit.

### **Concluding Thoughts:**

- Do you want a Zacchaeus in your life? Begin to Think Like Jesus!
- Is there a Zacchaeus in your life that you’ve not noticed? Begin to Think Like Jesus!
- Look around you.
- Take a few minutes with someone new, or someone you’ve not seen in a while and catch up together.
- Think Like Jesus and seek to save the lost around you.

### **Declaration:**

- *Heavenly Father, thank you that I am empowered to think like Jesus.*
- *Thank you that I can shift my mindset from being self-focused to more outward focused.*
- *I will pray for your leading in my life, your compassion, your love for the lost to manifest more and more in my life!*

- *You are opening my eyes to see the harvest around me.*
- *Thank you that I can think like Jesus does about the lost.*
- *Thank you that I will become more and more fruitful in your ministry to seek and save the lost.*
- *In Jesus mighty Name I pray, Amen!*