

¹ Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. ² There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. ³ He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.

⁵ When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today."

⁶ Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. ⁷ But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled.

⁸ Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"

⁹ Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

— Luke 19:1-10

Discussion/Journal Questions

Share a joyful experience you have had recently.

Have two or three people read Luke 19:1-10 out loud slowly. After some time of reflection, ask each other what words, phrases, or ideas stand out to everyone. What questions come to mind as you meditate on this scripture?

Who was Zacchaeus? What obstacles stood between him and Jesus?

In the sermon, Pastor John shared this quote from Blaise Pascal, "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus." How have you felt this hole in your own life?

What are some ways people try to fill this hole?

How does Jesus treat Zacchaeus? How is this different from the way anyone else would have treated him?

What is Zacchaeus' response to Jesus in verses 6-8?

What does this story tell us about how Jesus's people should act towards others?

Who is Zacchaeus in your life? How can you pray for them today?