

# THE SEARCH FOR SIGNIFICANCE

## Story: Part Five

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*Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. <sup>2</sup> There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. <sup>3</sup> He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup> 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.”*

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

*<sup>8</sup> 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!” <sup>9</sup> Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham.*

*<sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.” (Luke 19:1–10, NLT)*

## WHAT BLOCKS SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE FROM GOD

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
*“Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.” (Proverbs 16:18, NLT)*
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
*“...How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” (Luke 18:24–25, NIV)*
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
*“For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness. They seem to live such painless lives; their bodies are so healthy and strong. They don’t have troubles like other people; they’re not plagued with problems like everyone else.” (Psalm 73:3–5, NLT)*

## WHAT I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GOD

### 1. I NEED TO KNOW GOD \_\_\_\_\_ ME.

*“When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus...*

*“What is the price of two sparrows—one copper coin? But not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it...don’t be afraid; you are more valuable to God than a whole flock of sparrows.” (Matthew 10:29–31, NLT)*

### 2. I NEED TO KNOW GOD \_\_\_\_\_ ME.

*“...and called him by name! “Zacchaeus!”*

*God showed how much he loved us by sending his only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins... We love Him because He first loved us. (1 John 4:9-10, 19, NLT/NKJV)*

**3. I NEED TO KNOW GOD \_\_\_\_\_ ME.**

*“...Quick! Come down! For I am going to be a guest in your home today!” (Luke 19:5, TLB)*

*“But the people who saw this began to express disapproval. They said, “He went to be the guest of a sinner.”” (Luke 19:7, GW)*

**4. I NEED TO KNOW THAT GOD \_\_\_\_\_.**

What Zacchaeus did right:

- **ADMITTED HIS \_\_\_\_\_.**

*Jesus replied, “People soon become thirsty again after drinking this water. But the water I give them takes away thirst altogether. It becomes a perpetual spring within them, giving them eternal life.” (John 4:13-14, NLT)*

- **PURSUED \_\_\_\_\_.**

*“When you come looking for me, you’ll find me. “Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else. (Jeremiah 29:13, MSG)*

*Seek the Lord while you can find him. Call upon him now while he is near...turn to the Lord that he may have mercy upon [you], and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon! (Isaiah 55:6-7, TLB)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ **JESUS.**

*“And he came down quickly and received him with joy.” (Luke 19:6, NAB)*

- \_\_\_\_\_ **A NEW HEART.**

*“But Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “I will give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have cheated anyone, I will pay back four times more.” Jesus said to him, “Salvation has come to this house today...” (Luke 19:8–9, NCV)*

*And I will give you a new heart—I will give you new and right desires—and put a new spirit within you. I will take out your stony hearts of sin and give you new hearts of love. (Ezekiel 36:26, TLB)*

**ACTION STEPS:**

**Be Baptized!**

**Publish your #story**

**INVITE TO EASTER**