

HOW TO GET PICKED FOR THE TEAM

#WINNING: Part 1

August 30, 2020 | Coach Brian

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 (NLT)

OBSTACLES I MUST OVERCOME

1. POWER.

*“There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region...”
(Luke 19:2a, NLT)*

2. POSSESSIONS/PLEASURE.

“...and he had become very rich.” (Luke 19:2b, NLT)

*“...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. PEOPLE.

“He wanted desperately to see Jesus, but the crowd was in his way...” (Luke 19:3, The Message)

“I am not trying to please people. I want to please God. Do you think I am trying to please people? If I were doing that, I would not be a servant of Christ.” (Galatians 1:10, CEV)

4. PRIDE.

“...he was too short to see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.” (Luke 19:3–4, NLT)

“...God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” (James 4:6, NLT)

WHAT I NEED KNOW TO ABOUT THE SCOUT

1. HE SEES ME.

“When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus...” (Luke 19:5, NLT)

“Though the LORD is on high, he looks upon the lowly, but the proud he knows from afar.” (Psalm 138:6, NIV84)

2. HE KNOWS ME BY NAME.

“...and called him by name. “Zacchaeus!” he said...” (Luke 19:5, NLT)

“...He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.” (John 10:3, NLT)

3. HE WANTS ME ON THE TEAM.

“...I must be a guest in your home today.” (Luke 19:5, NLT)

“For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.” (Luke 19:10, NLT)

HOW TO GET PICKED FOR HIS TEAM

1. I MUST GET SICK AND TIRED OF BEING EMPTY AND SINFUL.

“Jesus was heading his way, and Zacchaeus wanted to see what he was like, but he was too short to see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.” (Luke 19:3–4, CEV/NLT)

“Blessed are those who recognize they are spiritually helpless. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.” (Matthew 5:3, GW)

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah 29:13, NIV)

2. I MUST RESPOND TO THE OFFER.

“Zacchaeus scrambled out of the tree, hardly believing his good luck, delighted to take Jesus home with him.” (Luke 19:6, The Message)

"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—" (John 1:12, NIV)

THE OFFER IS URGENT!

"Zacchaeus, hurry down!" (Luke 19:5, CEV)

"For God says...Indeed, the "right time" is now. Today is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2, NLT)

3. I MUST PUBLICLY WEAR THE BRAND.

"But the crowds were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled. Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord..." (Luke 19:7–8, The Living Bible)

"Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:37–38, NLT)

4. I MUST TAKE STEPS TO GROW!

Zacchaeus: "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!" Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham." (Luke 19:8–9, NLT)

ACTION STEPS

Believe / Baptized / Bases