



## Stories that Change Derrick Shields “A Revelation Story” 8/27/23

**Key Verses:** Luke 19:1-10

**Key Thought:** Zacchaeus— a traitor and extortionist to his people but valuable to Jesus— was saved through a revelation of Jesus (not self-reform), which led Jesus to affirm his identity within God's people and Zacchaeus to become a righteous steward of his riches.

**Points to Consider:**

- Zacchaeus was a Jew who collected taxes from his people for the oppressive empire of Rome. Tax collectors could extort more than was required by Rome and keep the excess. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector, and he was quite wealthy. → Zacchaeus was also hated by his people (cf. 19:7)— as a traitor and an extortionist.
- Zacchaeus— knowing that Jesus was about to pass through but blocked by a crowd— sought to see Jesus by climbing a tree. Surprisingly, Jesus stopped at the tree, looked up, and told Zacchaeus that it was necessary that He stay at his house.
  - i. Jesus— so important as to draw large crowds— chose to associate with a man who was likely one of the most hated people in Jericho.
  - ii. Note that Jesus came to Zacchaeus because he was “lost” (cf. 19:10), not because he had in any way reformed himself.
- That day, Zacchaeus received a revelation of Jesus and came to understand that following Him was of more value than money could provide.
- A result of the internal transformation, Zacchaeus declared that he would give generously to the poor and provide ample restitution to anyone he'd extorted. → Jesus then affirmed his identity within God's people.
- The “lost” are not worthless; they're just in the wrong place and need to be restored as obedient children in the household of their Father (cf. Luke 15).

**Discussion Prompts:**

- To whom do you most relate: Zacchaeus, the crowd, or Jesus? Explain.
- Can you share of when something has shaped your life more than following Jesus?
- How does Jesus challenge your attitude toward the “lost”?
- What does this story reveal about the nature of salvation?
- What would change if you truly “welcomed Jesus into your home” today?
- Close with prayer for one another.