



FRESH START: Opportunity to See Others

MAIN SCRIPTURE

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. 5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. 7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." 8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." 9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." **Luke 19:1-10 NLT**

WARM UP

- What stood out to you from the message? (story, thought, Scripture, etc.)

Thought #1 – We have an opportunity!

- Pastor Kevin mentioned the 5-mile radius around us and the opportunity we have to lead people to Jesus.
 - Is there someone on your heart that you would like to know Jesus?

- Pastor Kevin said, "The question is NOT how we make College Church significant again. Rather, the question is – "How do we as a church share the significance of Jesus to the thousands of people that surround us?""
 - Pastor Kevin noted the first question makes it all about us. But the second question makes it all about Jesus! How do we keep our focus on sharing Jesus with those around us?

Thought # 2 – We want this place to be easy to follow Jesus.

- Talking about the church, Pastor Kevin said, "People shouldn't have to climb trees to find Jesus."
 - Sometimes we make people "climb trees" (we make it difficult) to follow Jesus. What are some of those ways we make it difficult? Why do we do that?
- Pastor Kevin noted that we are often more comfortable with people who look, act, and think like us. We want them to come to Jesus, but it makes us uncomfortable when they aren't like us.
 - Have you seen this to be true in your experience with church?
- Pastor Kevin mentioned that we must be intentional to notice others. One line Kevin shared was, "People need to know Jesus sees them and we do too."
 - What are some practical things we can do in our day to day lives to notice others?

Thought #3 – God wants people to know him.

- Pastor Kevin mentioned the phrase called “prevenient grace” which means that God goes before and is working to draw us to himself.
 - Practically this means that God is already at work in people’s lives before they even know it. Have you seen this to be true in your life and the lives of others?
 - Does it help you to know that God is already working in the lives of your neighbors, co-workers, family, etc? Those you want to share Jesus with?
- Jesus called Zacchaeus by name.
 - Think of a moment where someone you barely knew called you by name. How did that make you feel? What can you do to learn (and remember!) the names of others?
- Jesus broke the circle of the insiders (his disciples) and he noticed Zacchaeus.
 - How can you be intentional to look for those who are like Zacchaeus and desperately need Jesus?

Questions? Email me at:
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Thought #4 – Jesus brings transformation.

- The story of Zacchaeus ends with a radical change and transformation in his life. Part of sharing Jesus with others is believing he has the power to change people.
 - Do you believe Jesus can change the lives of the people you meet on a day-to-day basis?
 - How do you stay optimistic about Jesus’ power to change lives?
- In verse 10, Jesus shares his mission to “seek and save the lost.”
 - What are some ways we (as a church) can stay in line with the mission of Jesus?

Challenge – Pastor Kevin challenged us to be intentional. To make ourselves uncomfortable in order to share Jesus and the Good News. What could you do this week to be more intentional? (even if it makes you uncomfortable)