

The Value of the Front Porch

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TRADING BACK DECKS FOR **FRONT** Porches

Leo Loughmiller • September 14, 2025 • The Value of the Front Porch

Main Idea: The value of the front porch is that it's where we see people, where we invite them in, and where God transforms lives.

The Story of Zacchaeus - "Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.' So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, 'He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.' 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.' Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.'" (**Luke 19:1-10**)

1. The Front Porch is Where We See People. "When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him..." - (*Luke 19:5a*)

Back deck living hides us. Front porch living puts us in a position to notice.

"There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal."

-C.S. Lewis

We value the back deck because it builds our kingdom, but Jesus values the front porch because it builds His.

"Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."(Acts 2:46-47)

Your home isn't just where you live—it's where you live sent.

2. The Front Porch is Where We Invite People In. "'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.' So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly." (Luke 19:5b-6)

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

Hospitality is not performance—it's about opening the door.

3.The Front Porch is Where God Transforms Lives. *"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.'"* (Luke 19:8)

The table often accomplishes what the pulpit can't.

Your role is availability. God's role is salvation.

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Luke 19:10)

"If you cannot find Christ in the beggar at the church door, you will not find Him in the chalice."-John Chrysostom

Practical Steps

1. Be Present – Love begins with noticing. Presence is the first act of hospitality.
2. Make Space – Hospitality isn't confined to your house. It's about intention and openness, not perfection.
3. Trust God – We plant seeds of welcome and God brings the harvest of transformation.

The front porch life begins in the heart before it's built in the house.

“Radically ordinary hospitality is this: using your Christian home in a daily way that seeks to make strangers neighbors, and neighbors family of God.” -Rosaria Butterfield - The Gospel Comes With a Housekey