



Friend of Sinners

Part 5: A Different Path

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Two Men, Different Paths

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Two Men, Different Paths LUKE 18:18-24

¹⁸ A certain ruler asked him [Jesus], “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

¹⁹ “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. ²⁰ You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.’”

²¹ “All these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said.

²² When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

²³ When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy.

²⁴ Jesus looked at him...”

Wrong name — “Good Teacher” (verse 18)

Good guy (verse 21)

Tough choice (verse 22)

Wrong decision (verse 23 and Mark 10:22)

Predictable result: “He became very sad” (verse 23)

The Pivot Point

Jesus replied,

“What is impossible with man

is possible with God.”

– Luke 18:27

Luke 19:1-10

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.”

Bad guy (verse 2)

Right choice – come down... he came down (verses 5-6)

Religious response - “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner” (verse 7)

Right name – “Lord!” (verse 8)

Unexpected result: Salvation and celebration (verse 9)

Jesus offers friendship and transformation to everyone.

Will you choose to surrender your life to a friend of sinners?

Next Steps

The Prayer Team and the Belonging Team will be available today after services. If you need prayer, meet a member of the prayer team in front of the stage. If you’ve just decided to follow Jesus or want to make that decision, come meet one of the Belonging Team members under the left video screen.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What’s your favorite part of fall?
- 2) Given a choice, are you the kind of person to stay on the beaten path or blaze a trail of your own? Why?
- 3) Read both passages of scripture. List as many contrasts and similarities as you can find in the narrative. Where do you find yourself in the story?
- 4) Which of these would be hardest for you: *sell everything*, *come down*, or Jesus is going to *his house* for lunch?
- 5) Jesus came looking for you. How are you looking for him this week?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now and throughout the week?