

NOTES & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

RECOGNIZE

SERMON SUMMARY

This sermon challenges us to recognize the people around us who are far from God, just as Jesus recognized Zacchaeus when everyone else saw only a sinner. We are called to recognize our why, the moment, people's potential, and the opportunity for relationship, because lost people experience the hope of Jesus when someone is willing to notice and pursue them.

KEY POINTS

- Lost people experience the hope of Jesus because someone pursues them.
- Recognize Your **Why**
 - We notice lost people when we remember that our purpose is to follow Jesus and help others find Him.
 - The further we get away from our first day of salvation, the less desperate we are to help those who are where we used to be.
- Recognize the **Moment**
 - We have to “look up” and pay attention to the divine opportunities happening right in front of us.
- Recognize Their **Potential**
 - Where the crowd saw Zacchaeus as a sinner, Jesus saw who he could become.
- Recognize the **Relationship**
 - People aren't problems to solve; they are relationships to build.
- Recognize the **“Not's”**:
 - Notice when it's not going well.
 - Notice when they're not prepared for what they're facing.
 - Notice when they're not in church.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **What stood out to you most about the way Jesus saw Zacchaeus compared to the way the crowd saw him? How can we be more intentional about seeing people the way Jesus does?**

2. **The sermon says, “You can’t recognize lost people until you know your why.” What does knowing your “why” as a follower of Jesus change about the way you interact with people?**
3. **What are some distractions that keep you from “looking up” and recognizing the God-given opportunities happening around you?**
4. **Who is someone in your life that you may be tempted to see as a problem to solve rather than a relationship to build? What would it look like to pursue that relationship like Jesus did with Zacchaeus?**
5. **Think about the “Three Nots to Notice”: not going well, not prepared for, and not in church. Which of these do you most naturally notice in people, and who might God be asking you to notice and pursue this week?**