

Lifeline

Jesus is Our Savior from Lostness

Luke 19:1-10

Nearly every major event and person mentioned in the Bible is associated with a tree...

Creation: “And God said, ‘Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, & fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth’...And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘You may surely eat of every tree of the garden...’” **Genesis 1:11, 2:16**

Promises Fulfilled: “And the dove came back to him in the evening, & behold, in her mouth was a freshly plucked olive leaf. So Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth.” **Genesis 8:11**

Blessedness: “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the LORD, & on his law he meditates day & night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, & its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” **Psalms 1:1-3**

Building the Temple: “Now therefore command that cedars of Lebanon be cut for me. And my servants will join your servants, & will pay you for your servants such wages as you set, for you know that there is no one among us who knows how to cut timber like the Sidonians.” **1 Kings 5:6**

Jesus: “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me & I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” **John 15:5**

Main Idea: Jesus is our Lifeline out of Lostness through His Work on a Tree

“He entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” **Luke 19:1-10**

The Three Trees of Salvation:

I. Tree of Separation

“He entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich.” **Luke 19:1-2**

Tax Collectors: They were worse than Gentiles & the Talmud even gave instruction to devout Jews to lie & deceive tax collectors because the low-life, traitors deserved it!

Question: Why is Zacchaeus living this way? **It all goes back to a tree...**

“The LORD God took the man & put him in the garden of Eden to work it & keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good & evil you shall not eat...So when the

woman saw that the tree was good for food, & that it was a delight to the eyes, & that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit & ate, & she also gave some to her husband who was with her, & he ate.” **Genesis 2:15-17a, 3:6**
Zacchaeus lived the way he did because he believed the lie, the lie that God wasn't good & that he had to cheat & steal to get his needs met. This is the same lie that Adam & Eve believed in the Garden of Eden all those years ago.

“Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, & death through sin, & so death spread to all men because all sinned.” **Romans 5:12**

II. Tree of Opportunity

“And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” **Luke 19:3-5**

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.” **John 6:44**

Opportunity: This **shutdown & health crisis** may be your tree of opportunity to slow down, consider God's word, & spend time in prayer!

“Be still, & know that I am God...” **Psalms 46:10a**

III. Tree of Reconciliation

“So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

What is Zacchaeus doing? Jesus didn't tell him, “If you'll do these things, then I will save you.” No, Zacchaeus had been saved & this was the obvious evidence of it.

“Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.” **Matthew 3:8**

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” **Luke 19:10**

“For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.” **Romans 5:19**

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin & live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.” **1 Peter 2:24**

Questions: Have you found the Tree of Separation to be destructive? What kept Zacchaeus from Jesus was a crowd, so God provided a tree. What's keeping you from Jesus? What kind of tree has God provided for you? Jesus died on a Tree of Reconciliation for you & me. Will you, by faith, turn to Him?

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *1001 Humorous Illustrations* – Michael Hodgin (1994)
- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *NAC: Luke* – R.H. Stein (1992)
- *The Gospel of Luke* – William Barclay (1975)
- *Luke for Everyone* – N.T. Wright (2004)
- *Holman Commentary: Luke* – Trent. C. Butler (2000)
- *Luke: That You May Know the Truth* – Kent Hughes (1998)

- *MacArthur NT Commentary: Luke* – John MacArthur (2011)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)