



One Life at a Time Luke 19:1-10

No one is “too far gone” for Jesus to reach!

² And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich.

Text Message:

- o The story of Zacchaeus is not just a story, but “the rest of the story” to a cliffhanger story in Luke 18.
- o Our understanding of what is going on here is made clearer against the backdrop of Luke 18:18-27 and is meant to be read with this in mind.

- o Notice the contrasts between the two rich men:

Rich Ruler-Luke 18

Respected by the Jews
Commandment Keeper
Went away sad

Rich Zacchaeus-Luke 19

Despised by the Jews
Commandment Breaker
Went away saved

- o Notice again the question of the disciples in Luke 18:26-27:
Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?”
But he said, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”
- o The story of Zacchaeus is meant to be the answer to the question, living proof that nothing is impossible with God!
- o *We may believe that no one is beyond the reach of Jesus, but do we live like this? Do our prayers and witness reflect this?*

The person we least expect may be seeking Jesus the most (and vice versa)!

³ And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature.

Text Message:

- o As there was a connection with Zacchaeus and the rich ruler in Luke 18, so there is a connection here with Zacchaeus and the blind man in 18:35-43.
- o Notice the similarities:
 - 1) Both men wanted to see.
 - 2) Both men were hindered by the crowd.
 - 3) Both men didn't allow the crowd to keep them from Jesus!
- o Note: The crowd will not help people to come to Jesus!
- o A question that is left unanswered in the story is, *How did Jesus know Zacchaeus' name (Verse 5)?* Was it because of the murmurings of the crowd against him?
- o Zacchaeus would be voted "least likely to come to Jesus" by anyone in the crowd that day and yet he was the one seeking Jesus the most!
- o No one else in the crowd did something so bold, so undignified, so childish and shameful as climbing a tree!
- o The same is true today!
- o Will we, through our lives, be for these a bridge or a wall?

Jesus invites us to participate in His life-saving mission!

“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Luke 19:10

Text Message:

- o This is the key verse for the entire Gospel of Luke!
- o Today Jesus is still doing this for the Zacchaeus of the world, but Jesus now reaches people through his people by both prayer for, and participation in, his mission!
- o Ask Jesus this: *Jesus, who in my world right now is Zacchaeus?* Will you commit to pray and participate in what Jesus wants to do to reach this one?