

ALL !N WITH JORDAN EASLEY

From Curiosity To Conversion

Encounters With Jesus | Part 8 | Luke 19:1-10

INTRODUCTION

Curiosity can be a powerful catalyst for change. Consider the story of a janitor at NASA during the 1960s space race who, through simple curiosity, overheard a debate between engineers and offered a groundbreaking idea that improved the Apollo mission's fuel. His curiosity brought him close, his boldness brought him in, and his question led to a breakthrough. This is the power of curiosity, and it is the same force that led a man named Zacchaeus to the single greatest transformation of his life.

In Luke 19, we meet Zacchaeus, a man whose intense desire to see Jesus outweighed his dignity, his reputation, and the obstacles in his way. His story shows us that when we are desperate enough to seek Jesus, we position ourselves for a divine encounter. Jesus is not looking for the qualified or the righteous. He is looking for the curious, the searching, and the lost, ready to call them by name and change their lives forever.

KEY POINTS

1. Desperate Curiosity Overcomes All Obstacles

Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector, a man who was rich in wealth but poor in respect. Seen as a traitor by his own people, he was an outcast. When Jesus came to town, Zacchaeus's shortness and the dismissive crowd blocked his view. Instead of giving up, he did something undignified for a man of his status: he ran ahead and climbed a tree. In that culture, running in public was shameful, and climbing a tree was childish. But his desperation overrode his pride. This teaches us a vital spiritual principle: Jesus is drawn to desperation. Zacchaeus was willing to look foolish in front of men to see the face of God, and that posture of humility caught the Savior's attention.

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2. A Divine Call Welcomes the Unworthy

In a street filled with religious people, Jesus stopped for the sinner in the tree. He looked up and called him by name, saying, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down because today it is necessary for me to stay at your house.” This was not a random lunch stop; it was a divine appointment. Jesus did not call out to the most religious person in the crowd but to the one who knew he was unworthy. By inviting Himself to Zacchaeus’s home, Jesus offered intimate fellowship and acceptance, an act that was scandalous to the onlookers. The crowd complained, offended that Jesus would associate with a “sinful man.” Their reaction reminds us that grace always looks offensive to people who think they have earned it. Never let the volume of the crowd drown out the voice of the Savior who calls you by name.

3. A Changed Heart Leads to Radical Transformation

The encounter with Jesus produced immediate, visible change in Zacchaeus. He stood and made a public declaration of repentance, promising to give half his possessions to the poor and pay back anyone he had cheated four times the amount. True repentance is not just feeling sorry for your past; it is changing the direction of your future. When grace takes root in a person’s heart, generosity naturally grows. Jesus then declared, “Today salvation has come to this house.” Salvation was not put on layaway pending a probation period; it was immediate because Zacchaeus received it by faith. Jesus restored his identity, calling him a “son of Abraham,” and reaffirmed His own mission: “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.”

The story of Zacchaeus is our story. We may feel spiritually short, blocked by crowds of shame or public opinion, and unworthy of God’s attention. But Jesus came for this very reason: to seek and save the lost. He is not waiting for you to get cleaned up before you show up. He is calling out to you right in the middle of your mess, offering you a new identity and a restored purpose. An encounter with Jesus does not just change your eternal destination; it transforms your present reality. It turns takers into givers, the corrupt into the generous, and outcasts into beloved children of God. Just as Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus, Jesus climbed a tree, the cross, to save Zacchaeus. He did the same for you.

