

Beautiful Feet: When Jesus Invites Himself Over
Growth Group Discussion
Luke 19:1-10

Opening Questions (get everyone involved in discussion):

- Begin with prayer. Take at least 30 seconds to be silent, clearing your minds of distractions and preparing to hear from God's word.
- Share about someone who was instrumental in your spiritual journey. What role did they play? What can you learn from them?

1. Before reading today's focal passage, read Luke 18:9-14.

- How would you summarize the point of this parable, in your own words?
- Scholars think that two of the following stories are recorded as examples of the characters in this parable. The rich ruler in Luke 18:18-30 is a depiction of the "Pharisee" in this parable, whereas Zacchaeus is thought to be an example of the tax collector. Keep this fact in mind as you study today's focal passage.

2. READ Luke 19:1-10.

- Zacchaeus was wealthy, powerful, and yet universally hated because he earned his money through oppressive means and betrayed his people. Do you think that there is any class of people in our contemporary culture who are as universally despised as tax collectors were in the 1st-Century?
 - How might such a parallel help you grasp what Jesus does in this story?
- What stands out to you about Zacchaeus' efforts to see Jesus (vv. 2-4)?
 - On Sunday, Pastor Josh said that we need to be on the lookout for people who, like Zacchaeus, are curious about Jesus. When have you seen this play out? What does it look like today?
 - Is there anyone in your current circles who seems curious about Jesus?
- What do you notice about the way Jesus initially interacts with Zacchaeus (v. 5)?
 - How does Jesus still "invite himself" into people's lives today? How did he invite himself into your life?
- Is there anything surprising about how Zacchaeus welcomes Jesus (v. 6)? Why or why not?
- What do you think of Zacchaeus' response to Jesus in his home (v. 8)? How is it indicative of something deeper that has happened in his heart?
- What do you think Jesus means when he says, "Salvation has come to this house" (v. 9)?
 - What does Jesus mean when he says, "This man too is a son of Abraham?" See Galatians 3:6-7 for an interpretive key.
- In v. 10, Jesus states the truth that he wants his followers (and any bystanders) to learn from his interactions with Zacchaeus. Josh summarized this principle on Sunday by saying, "**Jesus is seeking to reach anyone who will welcome him on the basis of *his* effort rather than their own.**"

- How does this principle make more sense in light of the parable we looked at earlier, in chapter 18?
 - How can this principle have both a *humbling* effect and an *uplifting* effect?
 - What bearing does this principle have on our desire to bring good news to people in our circles?
3. We're going through this sermon series as a way of further unpacking the point of our vision statement which says, "**We will equip every disciple to introduce others to a life-giving relationship with Jesus.**" As such, Josh drew out some applications from Jesus' interactions in Luke 19. Discuss them, as follows.
- *What needs to happen in someone's life spiritually can typically only happen in the context of a home, and a friendship, sitting by a table and having a meal.*
 - Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
 - What might it look like for you to extend this kind of welcome to the person you mentioned above, who is curious about Jesus?
 - *You have to be less concerned with your social status and more concerned with their relationship with Jesus.*
 - To what degree does your concern for social (or professional) status impact the way you relate with people who do not yet know Jesus?
 - What is the key to getting past this concern for the sake of sharing the good news?
 - *You must spend time in the world of the ones whom you want to reach, rather than expecting them to come to us.*
 - What are your points of contact with people who are far from God?
 - How might you better leverage these points of contact for the sake of the gospel?
4. **Are there other areas having to do with sharing the good news, where you feel that you need equipping?**
- If so, try to help one another in your group. Also feel free to share them with leadership so that we can address them as we move forward.

PRAYER:

- Pray for the people you have mentioned during this discussion, that they will encounter Jesus, and that you will have opportunities to practice the principles we have discussed with respect to them.
- Take time also to share about and pray for any other needs that exist in your group.