

Zacchaeus: A Short Notice Opportunity

Vince Roberts

He entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. 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. 4 So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. 5 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." 6 So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. 7 And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." 8 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." 9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:1-10

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13 ESV

Let's Talk About It

In Sunday's message, Vince talks about Zacchaeus—a man who went out of his way to see Jesus and ended up having his life completely changed. Even though he was looked down on by others, Jesus saw his heart and his desperation to know Him, even calling Zacchaeus by name. It's a great reminder that Jesus is always looking for us, and when He gives us an opportunity to respond, we shouldn't miss it!

Luke 19:1-10; Romans 15:13

Discussion questions

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- Zacchaeus made an effort to see Jesus—what are some ways we can be more intentional about seeking Him in our daily lives?
- Climbing a tree wasn't something a wealthy, powerful man like Zacchaeus would normally do. What does this bold move say about his hunger for Jesus, and how does his response to Jesus' invitation show a transformed heart? Is there something God might be asking you to do that feels risky or uncomfortable but shows your own hunger for Him?
- Zacchaeus faced limitations—his small stature and his unpopular job as a tax collector—but he didn't let these hold him back from seeking Jesus. What are some things in your life that feel like barriers or limitations keeping you from fully living for Jesus? How can you overcome or see those challenges differently, just like Zacchaeus did?
- Have you ever experienced a "short notice" opportunity from God—a moment when you felt called to act quickly? What happened when you responded? How did it affect your faith or your relationships? What can you learn from that experience that might help you be more ready to say "yes" the next time God gives you a similar opportunity?

Take a Step

This week, ask God to make you aware of any "short notice opportunities" He places in your path—whether it's a conversation, a chance to help someone, or a moment to share your faith. When it comes, don't overthink it—respond like Zacchaeus did: with boldness and joy. Then, be ready to share your experience with the group next week!

Here's My Prayer

Lord, thank You for always seeing us, even when we feel like outcasts or "oddballs." Thank You for looking beyond our outward appearance and seeing the true condition of our hearts. Please help us to recognize the "short notice opportunities" You place before us and give us the courage and faith to respond without hesitation. We trust that as we obey Your leading, You will reveal Yourself to us in deeper, more intimate ways. In Jesus' name, amen.