

Jesus vs. Rejection

Luke 19:1-10

In Luke chapter 19, we're going to look at a need that I believe all of us will or have experienced at one point in our lives. I don't know about you, but to me, one of the worst feelings in the world is to be rejected, to be left out, or to be overlooked. How many would say, "I hate when that happens." You don't have to be a grown-up to be rejected. It often hits you very early in your childhood. Two friends are picking a sports team, and they pick everybody else, and you're the last one to be picked. You feel like the biggest loser. You walk into the cafeteria in school. There was the sports table for all the athletes. There was the popular table for all the popular kids. There was the almost popular table for the almost popular kids. Then there was your table over in the corner. You just felt like you were always going to that same place.

You may remember when we were kids, and we would ask someone to go with us? We'd write a note, and we'd give it to our friend to give to a girl, and it would say, "Will you go with me? Check yes or no." The first girl I asked made a new box, "Not in a million years." You feel like such a loser.

Today, we have technology and social media that can statistically prove how rejected we are. You can look at how many followers or friends you have, and when your friends have like three times the amount you have, it makes you feel so pathetic." You can look on Instagram and see all your friends are somewhere and you're not there.

Even in texting we have text response rules. They're not written anywhere, but they're deeply implied in our culture. For example, if I text you, and it takes you three days to respond, you just sent me a very clear message. The worst is the bubble thing. You text somebody, and there are bubbles. They're responding. Then you wait, and nothing comes. You got bubbled, but no message. They were going to text you, and they didn't do it.

You grow up, and in adulthood the rejection can sting much worse. You apply for the job. You've got the gifts. You do the interview, and you're rejected. All of your friends are dating somebody, and you're not, and you feel so bad about it. Your marriage was supposed to be really good, and you wake up one day and it's not good. You feel rejected. Your own child doesn't want to spend time with you and doesn't take your calls, and you feel so horrible. There are few emotions worse than feeling rejection, being left out, or being overlooked.

We're going to look at a guy in the gospels that 100% deserved to be rejected. But we're going to see a beautiful story where Jesus actually did not give him what he deserved. Because of God's grace, Jesus gave him something else.

"Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector, and he was wealthy." Luke 19:1

Zacchaeus is spectacular because he is not like other characters who encountered Christ. He was not called as the disciples were, nor was Zacchaeus suffering from some kind of affliction. What makes Zacchaeus so special is that he was an average man.

Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem to become the Savior of the world, and He was just passing through. There was no planned events. He was not speaking or spending the night there. Jericho was a beautiful village, an oasis in the desert, a very desirable place to live. Because it was such a desirable place to live, it was also one of the most taxed towns in all of Israel. Israel was being ruled by the Romans, and whenever the Roman government would take over a place, they would always tax towns like Jericho for as much as they could get, but the Romans wouldn't collect the taxes themselves. They would hire dishonest and greedy Israelites to collect the taxes. Those men would take over an area of town and collect as much tax as they could get from the people, then give it to the Romans. Zacchaeus was one of those tax collectors.

Working as a tax collector was lucrative, but it certainly wasn't easy. Everyone in town hated you, and you lived under constant stress working for the Romans Empire, which had a reputation of executing the hired help. Leaders in the empire had even killed members of their own family. The tax collectors were Jewish people who had betrayed their race and religion to work for the enemy. He was blessing the Roman government who was oppressing the Jewish

people. He is a Jewish man betraying his own people. The result was, they were despised. They were despicable, dishonest people who were profiting from the suffering of fellow Israelites. Zacchaeus was absolutely and completely hated in his community.

In order to become a tax collector, you had to bribe another tax collector. To be a tax collector, you had to be corrupt. The way you would collect taxes, is you would tax what is owed to the Roman government, and anything that you could collect above that amount was yours to keep. You were paid very well by the Roman government but you also extorted money from citizens. You go to the home of a widow who legitimately owes \$100. You'd knock on her door and say, "I'm here to collect your taxes today. You owe \$150." She's got no way to dispute this. There's not like a bill or proof that has the actual amount, and so you say she owes this amount. She gives you \$150, you give \$100 to the Roman government, and you keep \$50 for yourself. That's what the tax collectors did. You can only imagine how much they were hated by their fellow Jews.

The last thing we read is that he was the chief tax collector, the boss. Not only did he get his own cut, but he got a cut of the other tax collectors, making him extremely wealthy. He would not be allowed to worship with the other worshipers or participate in the Jewish feast. That's how much he was hated.

You can only imagine how people look at him, he's got so much money that he stole from them. He's got the house on the hill with an infinity pool. He wears Prada. He has a big screen TV, and he drives a Ferrari. He's got it all. He's rich, but there is not enough money in the world to make up for the lack of human relationships, for intimacy, for friendships. I can tell you by human nature, Zacchaeus was hurting. Feeling rejected. Feeling left out. Being hated. Being despised. He was despised and rejected by people, and that gets really lonely.

1. Zacchaeus's Emptiness Had Driven His Life.

"He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd." Luke 19:3

People would look on and think, "He really has it all," but he was lonely and missing something inside his soul. They had no idea how much he was hurting. The same thing happens today. People will look at you and see you one way, and they think you've got it all going on, but they have no idea that you're hurting. You may be looking at the people next to you and think, "They've got it so together. They are so happy." So many people think that they do, but no one really knows that they're putting on a show.

They look at their social media and think, "You're so happy and you have so many followers." The reality is, you don't even like yourself half the time. You're creating an image of yourself that's not real, and you feel very disconnected and alone all the time. Some people look at you and think you're so spiritual. The scripture flows out of you, and you're seem to be so close to God. The truth is, you know, right now you're in the middle of a spiritual crisis, and you're trying to worship, but God feels distant to you. You have questions, and you're hurting, and you feel very alone.

Chances are really good that Zacchaeus was wrestling with some of these things. He had all the bling, all the stuff, but yet he didn't have relationships. Zacchaeus had maybe heard about the fact that Jesus, the miracle worker, the amazing teacher, the prophet, Jesus, maybe the Messiah, was coming to town. So he climbed up a sycamore tree so he could see over the crowd and get a glimpse of Jesus.

Zacchaeus was in a really low place spiritually when Jesus became his friend. Zacchaeus had made it to the top of the ladder financially, but it had left an emptiness in him. In life, we all want to make it to the top of the ladder. Whether it's the top of the corporate ladder, or the top of the little league ladder or the social ladder, we'd all like to at least move up higher on the ladder of whatever we do. The worst pitfall on the ladder of greater than is making it all the way to the top and finding out you have less than. You make it to the top and discover you have less joy, less fulfillment, less peace than ever. That's what happened with Zacchaeus. All his striving for greater than had left him at the lowest place in his life. Because of this, Zacchaeus had a spiritual curiosity we can read about this in verse 3.

If you grew up in Sunday School, there was a song that some people would sing about Zacchaeus. “Zacchaeus was a wee little man. A wee little man was he. He climbed up in a sycamore tree for the Lord he wanted to see.”

Most scholars argue, based on the language and the context, that he actually wasn't just regular short, but he was probably abnormally short. If he was, we're not sure, but you know how cruel kids can be. In a time where there may not have been explanation or education about that, he was massively rejected growing up, very likely for his height. Now he's a tax collector. He is despised, rejected, and the children are taught not to like or trust or go near this guy, and he's hurting on the inside.

When you're hurting and rejected by people, you have a couple of choices. You can run back to people, hoping they'll approve you. “Please validate me. Please make me feel special.” Or, you can do what Zacchaeus did this time, and he decided to run to Jesus instead.

2. Zacchaeus' Curiosity Now Drives His Life.

“So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.” Luke 19:4

Look at the two verbs, “he ran and he climbed.” Zacchaeus, a Jewish man, ran and he climbed. There are a couple of things you need to know about this. No self-respecting Jewish man would do these two things. They would never run, and they would never climb. Climbing in a tree was something only a slave would do, and running was something no Jewish man would ever do. They had their flowing robes, and they might expose their legs. It was undignified. They would never do it.

Jesus told the story in Luke 15 about the prodigal son who rejected the father and went off and squandered the father's wealth. If you remember, when the son came back, the father, who represents our Heavenly Father, God, actually ran to the son. When Jesus told that story, the Jewish listeners were thinking, “Are you saying God ran?” That's exactly what Jesus was saying, but even though it was undignified, that's how much God loved his lost one, that he would actually do something that was socially unacceptable to pursue His son. That's exactly what Zacchaeus does. He runs, even though it's undignified, and he climbs, even though that's something that no self-respecting person would do. Why? Because he had to see for himself who Jesus was.

He had probably heard about Mathew, another tax collector who also wasn't even allowed to go into worship, that everybody else rejected, but Jesus not only accepted him, but Jesus asked Mathew to become one of His followers. Zacchaeus had certainly heard about this, and he wanted to see for himself, so he runs and climbs. There's a great story about a woman that had an issue of blood for 12 years. When Jesus was passing by, this woman reached out just to try to grab the hem of his garment. She was willing to reach and stretch beyond anyone else, to perhaps, just touch Jesus. There's a story about four guys who wanted to get their friend to Jesus, but the crowd was too big, so they couldn't get in the door. These four guys dug through a roof. Sometimes you need to reach for Jesus. Sometimes you need to dig through a little something to get to Jesus. Sometimes, you need to run toward Him, and sometimes you need to climb. There's some obstacle, some doubt, some insecurities, some fear, and you've got to just climb over that fear. You have to climb over your pride. You have to climb over your stubbornness. You have to run through that doubt. You have to dig through those insecurities and you just have to pursue Jesus. Just pursue Him. Just pursue Him. Just run after Him. You need to reach out to Him. You need to dig through something for Him. You need to run to Him. You need to climb over whatever that obstacle is and pursue Him.

The good news and the promise from God's Word is that, when you seek Him, you will find Him. When you pursue Him, He will show Himself to you.

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:13

You need to say, “I need to know for myself.” You reach, you climb, you dig, you run, and you say, “I'm going to pursue Him.” And just like He did for Zacchaeus, He will reveal Himself to you.

“When Jesus reached the spot, he saw him and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.’” Luke 19:5

Jesus stops, and He looks up and sees Zacchaeus., but He really “saw” Zacchaeus. He saw his hurt. He saw his loneliness. He saw the shame and guilt that was eating away at him day and night. He saw his longing for fulfillment and his yearning to be accepted and loved. Jesus stopped on His way to the cross, looked at Zacchaeus, and He saw someone worth dying for, someone with great value and worth. Jesus sees you too. He really sees you. He sees past the outside. You may be at the top of the ladder. When everyone else sees you, they see success and influence. They see someone who's got it all together. They see someone they're envious of. But when Jesus sees you, He sees the emptiness in your soul. He sees your deep insecurities that no one else knows about. He sees your loneliness and your longing for real fulfillment. Everyone else may see you at the top of the ladder, but today Jesus sees that you're at the lowest point in your life. Maybe you're there right now. He knows it. He sees you. And I've got great news for you today. Jesus is a friend to those in low places. If you're in a low place, He's right there.

When everyone else looked at Zacchaeus, all they saw was a low-life sinner. When Jesus looked at Zacchaeus, He saw a hurting and lost soul that needed salvation. Today, you may be like Zacchaeus. You've hit rock bottom. Maybe you've fallen off the ladder. Your sins and failures have left you at the lowest place of brokenness and despair. I've got great news for you today. Jesus is a friend of those in low places, and He's got a purpose for you. He's got a plan. He loves you.

3. Jesus Doesn't Give Him What He Deserved.

Zacchaeus runs and climbs up in this tree and when Jesus reached that spot, he looked up at him and says, "Zacchaeus." Jesus called him by name. The Good Shepherd, Jesus, knows His sheep, and He calls them by name. If you'll just listen, you can hear God calling your name. He's calling you in, drawing you toward Himself. Zacchaeus probably hadn't heard his name called very often at all. They probably called him traitor, thief, cheat, all kinds of labels.

Zacchaeus' name actually means “pure or righteous one,” but he was anything but that. He never lived up to his name. The widows weren't saying, "Hey righteous one, welcome, take my money." No. Jesus calls him what he's not. Jesus called him righteous one, by faith that's what you're going to become.

Jesus says the most shocking thing this Jewish community could ever hear. *“I must stay at your house today.”* Luke 19:5

“All the people saw this and began to mutter; ‘He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.’” Luke 19:7

Put yourself in this crowd. You've been hearing about Jesus. He's raised the dead. He's healing people. He speaks like no other man. They were thinking He could be the Savior. He goes to the most hated guy in town, and says, “Hey, can I come over to your place tonight? Maybe we have some dinner, play some chess.” You're thinking, “No, no, no! Maybe you haven't heard, Jesus. Let me tell You. He's pathetic, and I'm righteous. I go to church every week. I serve at church. I serve in the two-year-old room at church, that's how righteous I am. I'm a tither. I not only just tithe, but I give offerings as well. I'm on the prayer team at my church. I'm an usher. I am righteous. This guy's not even allowed in the church.” Jesus just ignores the crowd and goes straight for the worst guy. Why? Because that's exactly who He came for. He didn't come for the righteous. He came for the sinners. He didn't come for the healthy. He came for the sick. He went to the worst, most unrighteous sinner in the whole community and said, *“Come on down. I'm staying at your house today.”*

“So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.” Luke 19:6

All the people saw this and begin to mutter. "He's going to be the guest of a sinner?" They're exactly right. This is shocking and scandalous. This is beyond our ability to comprehend because Zacchaeus absolutely and completely deserved rejection. He was like the mafia. He is abusing people. He is hated. He's on the most wanted list. He's

committing treason. He's the worst of the worst. Jesus did not give him what he deserves. Just like when we turn to Jesus, he doesn't give us what we deserve.

D.L. Moody is a famous evangelist from centuries before. He said Jesus saved Zacchaeus in the distance from the limb to the ground. From the time it took Zacchaeus to get from the limb to the ground, Jesus changed his life. He climbed up the tree, but he jumped down. Now how long would that take? Three seconds? In the distance from the limb to the ground, Jesus completely transformed Zacchaeus.

In a matter of seconds, you can be totally and completely transformed by the grace of Jesus. In a matter of seconds. It doesn't matter how bad you are, how far your friends think you are from God. In a matter of seconds, you can be forgiven, transformed, spiritually healed, and made new in the presence of Jesus. From the distance from the limb to the ground, you can be transformed by the power and the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ!

4. There Was Evidence That He Was Different.

We see immediate evidence of a transformed life. Jesus says, "Zacchaeus, come on down. The party's at your house today." Before the party can even start, Zacchaeus stood up and spoke to Jesus.

"But Zacchaeus stood up and said..." Luke 19:9

Why was he down? Did he fall? Did he bow at Jesus' feet? He was down. Life will humble you, or you can humble yourself, but when you come to Jesus you can get on your feet again.

"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that He may lift you up at the appropriate time." 1 Peter 5:6

I love the story that Jesus tells that burst the pride of self-righteousness. A lot of people think Jesus is talking about Zacchaeus. It's in Luke chapter 18. *"Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a proud, self-righteous Pharisee, and the other a cheating tax collector. The proud Pharisee prayed this prayer: 'Thank You, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone else, especially like that tax collector over there!' ... But the corrupt tax collector stood at a distance and dared not even lift his eyes to heaven as he prayed, but beat upon his chest in sorrow, exclaiming, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner.' I tell you, this sinner, not the Pharisee, returned home forgiven! For the proud shall be humbled, but the humble shall be honored."* Luke 18:10-14

Tax collectors were the lowest of the low, but a Pharisee was a religious leader that everyone looked up to. You would look at a Pharisee and how they were dressed and how they carried themselves and think, "That's a perfect person." When they saw the tax collectors, they were just disgusted. So, when this religious guy goes into the temple to pray, he looks over and sees the tax collector and prays, *"God, thank You that I'm not like him."* I've got a few little sins to confess, but I feel a lot better because I am not like him. I'm so much better than he is." Maybe you've been comparing yourself. Sometimes we fall right into it. It's so easy to compare ourselves. We can compare ourselves really easily and feel either depressed or prideful.

But Jesus said, "I'll tell you who was forgiven. It was the tax collector." The only people who get forgiveness are those who admit they need forgiveness, not the self-righteous who think they don't need it. Too many times, pride blinds us to our great need for forgiveness because we make the mistake this Pharisee made and start comparing ourselves to other people.

There is no sinner too lost to be saved. Jesus called Zacchaeus down from the sycamore tree and went home with him. He was joyful to receive Jesus. He realized money was not going to make him happy. Pleasure's not going to make him happy. Recognition's not going to make him happy. Popularity's not going to make him happy. Fame's not going to make him happy. No matter how many times we've tried those things, we've fallen flat on our back, and it's left us empty. We've failed to reach the top over and over, and God uses those broken moments when we're at the end of our road we're flat on our back, and all we can do is look up. Sometimes God allows us to get to that place of total brokenness so we can be totally surrendered to Him because brokenness comes before blessedness.

“Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” Luke 19:6

This is the guy that worships money who says, “I give half of my possession to the poor. If I've cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” In the distance from the limb to the ground, he is so transformed that now he's generous. He's making wrong things right. Why did he do this? He did not do this to get the approval of Jesus. He did this because he just got the approval of Jesus. We don't do good things to win His approval. We do things because He has approved of us.

When you recognize that you do not deserve it, yet He gives you extravagant love, the only reasonable response for extravagant love is extravagant sacrifice. I give You back my life. I give You everything. What Zaccheus does is so much more than the law requires.

The Old Testament law said, “If you're a benevolent Jewish person, you set aside 20% of your income for the poor.” But Zaccheus doesn't say he's going to give 20%, he said half. The law said, “If you stole from somebody, you give back what you stole plus 20% in interest.” Zaccheus didn't say he was going to give back 120%. He was going to give back 400%. Why did he do this? Because he was not motivated by the law, he was motivated by love.

This is an extravagant response to God's extravagant love. That's what happens when you're truly transformed by Jesus. It's not uncommon to see that. We see that kind of stuff all the time at our church. In the distance from the limb to the ground, in the distance from a prayer for help to the answer. When you're transformed by Jesus, there is evidence. Suddenly you start living different. Suddenly you start talking different. Suddenly you start forgiving people who don't deserve forgiveness. You start loving people that others don't seem to love. You start caring for the outcast. Suddenly, you start using your resources to help people who are in need. Sometimes those you don't even know. You suddenly start serving and all of a sudden your life is not your life. It belongs to God. You do things that don't make sense. Why? Because extravagant love demands an extravagant response. Zaccheus did not do this to gain the approval of Jesus. He did it because Jesus approved of him, and this was his response.

You can work so hard to get people to like you, but you cannot please everyone, but you can please God. When you recognize that, that God approves of you even though you don't deserve it, suddenly you're not living for the approval of people, but you're living for the approval of God, and that's when everything changes.

“Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.”” Luke 19:9

“For the son of man, speaking of himself, came to seek and to save the lost.” Luke 19:10

Jesus did not come for the found. He came for the lost. He didn't come for the righteous. He came for sinners. He didn't come for the healthy. He came for the sick. When we recognize that, our only reasonable response is to give him our whole lives because He accepted us even when we did not deserve it. Jesus had friends in low places. The religious leaders accused Jesus of being a glutton, a drunk, and being friends with sinners.

"The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'" Luke 7:34

On the cross, Jesus took all the sins so we could be raised up to new life. Because He humbled himself to the lowest, He is now raised up to the highest at the right hand of God. He stepped down to become less than all, and now His name is greater than all. We praise His name because He showed us what greatness really is. Greatness doesn't come by climbing up the ladder. Greatness comes by stepping down. It doesn't come by climbing up in pride. It comes from stepping down in humility. Look what Jesus said in Matthew 23:11, “The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” Matthew 23:11-12

I pray today that this truth would minister to those who may be feeling rejection. I pray that you would be transformed. If you battle with feelings of rejection from people, if you feel a little alone, a little disconnected, you might even feel spiritual rejection, you need to know God's not far away. God can do His divine work in your life.

People will ultimately reject us at one point or another, but God is always faithful. We know that He'll never leave us. He will never forsake or abandon us. The Holy Spirit will bring a divine comfort into the hearts of those who are hurting today. Because Jesus died on the cross, we can stand before a holy God forgiven, accepted, and changed.

Jesus went for the worst, most despised sinner. For those who feel like they had done too much, He cares for those who believe God could never love or forgive them. Not only does he love you, but he wants to forgive you. He's calling you. You just need to speak a single prayer, "Jesus, I know I'm a sinner. I want to know You, and I want to give my life to You. Jesus, I repent and turn from my sin. Jesus, save me."

For those who recognize that you need His forgiveness and His grace, run to Him, climb over the obstacle, dig through whatever is in the way and say, "Jesus, I need You, and today I give my life to You. I surrender it all. Be my Savior and the Lord of my life."

5. The Invitation to A Spectacular Dinner.

There is something profoundly sacred about a meal. It is where barriers break down, where enemies become friends, and where strangers become family. Throughout his ministry, Jesus was known as a "friend of sinners" largely because he ate with them. There are two banquet scenes—two invitations to the table.

- The small, unexpected meal in Jericho, where Jesus invited Himself to the home of the despised tax collector named Zacchaeus.
- The great, anticipated eternal celebration, the "Marriage Supper of the Lamb" in Revelation 19, where the redeemed will gather with their Savior.

In Luke 19, In Jericho, Jesus is the *unexpected* guest in a sinner's home.

In Revelation 19, In heaven, Jesus is the *expected* Bridegroom, the King, returning to claim His bride.

The same Jesus who invites Himself into the "tree" of our chaotic lives today is the same Jesus who will seat us at His table in heaven. He is seeking the lost in both scenarios. When Jesus entered Zacchaeus' home, the atmosphere changed. The "bouquet" Zacchaeus offered was not flowers, but the fruits of repentance: "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." A broken man offers a "bouquet" of restitution and transformed life. He is cleaned from the inside out.

The church, the bride, is dressed in "fine linen, clean and bright" which represents "the righteous acts of the saints" (Revelation 19:8). But notice: the Bible tells us the bride did not buy this garment herself. Christ gives them this righteousness.

Zacchaeus's repentance in his home and our righteous deeds at the Supper are not things we do to earn salvation. They are the result of encountering Jesus. He weeds out our impurities, much like a father preparing a bouquet for a child to give to her mother.

Luke 19:6 says, "So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully."

Revelation 19:7 says, "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory." The connecting thread is **Joy**.

- Zacchaeus finds joy in salvation *today*—a present reality of grace.
- The Church finds joy in salvation that is to be *fulfilled*—the future reality of victory.

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb is the ultimate victory celebration where all enemies—sin, death, and Satan—are finally defeated. It is the ultimate “banquet of thanksgiving” where we celebrate that we are finally home.

The story of Zacchaeus shocks the crowd because Jesus brings salvation to a man they deemed unworthy. The invitation to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb is equally shocking. It is offered to sinners who have been washed by the blood of the Lamb.

“Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” Revelation 19:9

Today, are you in the tree, watching from a distance? Are you hiding behind your sins, your past, or your pride? Jesus is calling your name today, just as He called Zacchaeus.

Are you preparing yourself for that final banquet?

The banquet in Zacchaeus’ home was a forecast of the Marriage Supper. The transformation that happened in that small house in Jericho is the same transformation that will be completed in the New Jerusalem. Today, Jesus is passing through your Jericho. He is looking for you. He is offering a seat at His table. Will you, like Zacchaeus, come down from the tree and receive Him joyfully?

“The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come!’ Let the one who hears say, ‘Come!’ Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes to take the free gift of the water of life.” Revelation 22:17

The invitation is for everyone to come to Him!