

Questions for Small Groups | April 14, 2019

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The Great Explorers — Jesus at Table with the Despised – Zacchaeus, a Chief Tax Collector

Focus Passage: Luke 19:1–10

Context: Luke 19:1–44

Other Passages Referenced: Isaiah 53:5; Luke 6:24–26; 12:15; 18:24; John 1:16

Sermon Recap: In Luke 19:1–10 we find Jesus at table with another despised tax collector, this one named Zacchaeus. When Jesus is at table with Zacchaeus, Jesus reveals His table manners of seeing, seeking, and saving. *Seeing* means that Jesus came to see those whom no one wants to see. *Seeking* means that Jesus seeks those whom the crowd is unwilling to seek. *Saving* means that Jesus saves human beings who have strayed from God’s direction and lost their way. He saves those who receive Him in faith that demonstrates repentance.

Background Helps

- Jericho – Ancient Jericho of the Old Testament was situated about 16 miles northeast of Jerusalem. By the time of the New Testament, the ancient city had been destroyed and a new Jericho was constructed a little over a mile to the southeast. By the time of Jesus, “Jericho was a well-known toll place in Palestine, especially for goods passing east and west between Judea and Perea.”¹ Ancient Jericho was pretty much the first stop of the people of Israel after crossing the Jordan River in their possession of the Promised Land. In that story we see God using the Gentile harlot Rahab as part of his mission. She later figured in the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1. In the passage of this week’s sermon, Jericho is the last stop of Jesus on His way to Jerusalem to bring God’s people into His promised Kingdom.

Hook: A Question to Help Ignite Conversation

Can you share a story of a time when you wanted to be seen by or seen with someone?

Look—Observing and Interpreting:

READ Luke 19:1–10

1. What do we learn about Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1–3?
2. How does Zacchaeus respond to Jesus inviting himself to Zacchaeus’ home?
3. What does Zacchaeus’ commitment to giving half of his possessions (not just half of his income but of his entire net worth) to the poor and his willingness to pay people back four times whatever he had cheated them

¹ Stein, *Luke*, 467.

indicate? Read Exodus 22:1 to add context to what the Old Testament required for someone caught having stolen a sheep.

4. Read Luke 18:22–27 and compare it to the story of Zachaeus. How did the two men compare in relation to their observance of the law before meeting Jesus? ... How about their emotional responses after encountering Jesus? ... Their willingness to part with their riches?
5. When Jesus says of Zacchaeus, “Today salvation has come to this house” (Luke 19:9), what is he saying in relation to Luke 18:24–27 in the story of the rich ruler?
6. Note the connection between Jesus’ statement in Luke 19:10 and the words of YHWH through the prophet Ezekiel in Ezekiel 34:16. What is Luke saying?

Illustrations:

Illustrations and quotes can be found on the “Sermon Slides” link at the bottom of www.wcchapel.org

Took: *Applying the message to our lives.*

1. Do you have eyes to see and a heart to seek? ... How does your response to Jesus seeking and saving you compare to Zacchaeus’ response?
2. How might Jesus want you to be involved this week in His mission of seeing those many don’t want to see, seeking those others are not willing to seek, and saving the lost?

Prayer: Please spend some time praying for one another.