

# Sinners?

*April 11, 2021*

Luke 24:1-12

Zacchaeus wanted to “see who Jesus was.” So, he repositioned himself by climbing a tree so that he’d see Jesus for himself. Jesus wanted to know this “chief tax collector,” the one who had enriched himself at the expense of the most vulnerable. So, he stopped the parade of praise-givers and spoke directly to Zacchaeus: “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.”

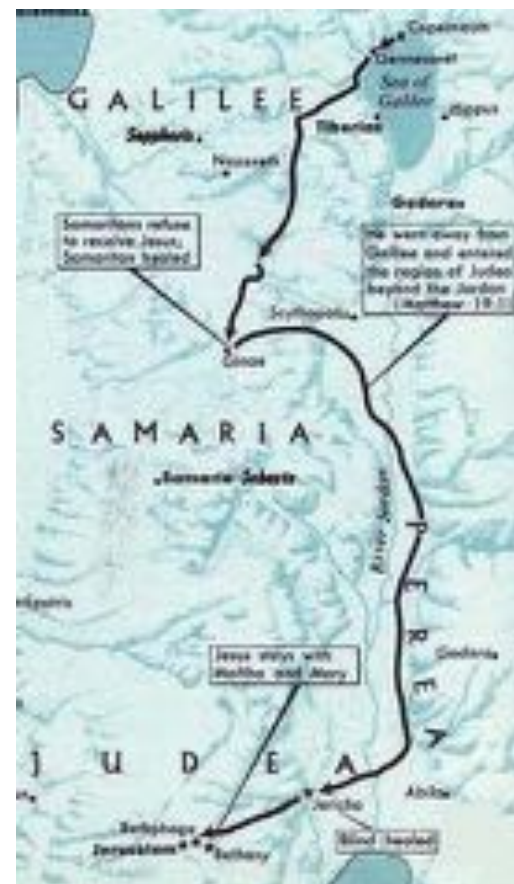
Many in the crowd had been cheated by Zacchaeus. It was so bad, they no longer referred to him by his proper name. They referred to him simply as “sinner.” Except for Jesus, no one who witnessed this event called Zacchaeus by his name. Being Zacchaeus’ guest and Jesus calling him by name transformed Zacchaeus’ soul.

We often ask people to “come to Jesus.” The real question is whether we’ll welcome Jesus when he knocks on our door. Before Jesus made our redemption possible, he made himself our guest in our world. Jesus wants to be your guest, in your house, and mine, too. Incredible!

Jesus’ life, death and resurrection has empowered us to transform lives of those others have written off as worthless. [excerpts from Glen Schmucker]

## Desperate (Luke 19:1-4)

- Jesus was nearing his final destination on His trip from Galilee to Jerusalem. (~70 miles)
  - Jericho was about 15 miles from Jerusalem. Jesus healed a blind man on the road outside of Jericho. [Luke 18:35-43]
  - A large crowd (almost like a parade) had formed around Jesus by the time He walked through Jericho.
  - Zacchaeus was **“Chief among the publicans”**. He was rich.
  - **“he sought to see Jesus who he was”** – but there was a problem, Zacchaeus was short, and the crowd blocked his view.
  - Out of desperation, he **“climbed up into a sycamore tree”**
    - Why did Zacchaeus want to see Jesus?
    - If Zacchaeus was rich, why didn’t the people let him see?
  - Jesus was more important to Zacchaeus than his image or his reputation with the people. He climbed the sycamore tree which has a low structure and large limbs to see Jesus.
  - Some people are desperate to see Jesus. Rich or poor, young and old, strong and weak, famous and unknown.
    - Without Jesus, there is an unfilled void in people’s lives.
- **What barriers do we need to remove for more people to see Jesus and to hear the good news of the Gospels?**



### **Friended** (Luke 19:5-7 ) [Luke 18:10-14]

- Jesus had a purpose behind every action.
  - He didn't happen upon Zacchaeus accidentally.
- Imagine the crowd's (and the disciple's) surprised reaction when Jesus stops under the Sycomore tree and looks up.
  - ***"Zacchaeus, make haste ... I must stay at your house today"***
    - Jesus knew Zacchaeus' name.
    - Jesus spoke to him individually. He had a message for him.
    - "make haste" has a sense of urgency.
    - The conversation Jesus wanted with Zacchaeus couldn't take place on the roadside, but in Zacchaeus' home.
- It was not customary for someone to invite themselves into another person's home, yet Jesus said ***"I must abide at thy house"***.
- Jesus and His disciples could have found lodging elsewhere, but Jesus was interested in Zacchaeus need, not His own. Zacchaeus needed something only Jesus could provide.
  - How would Zacchaeus respond to Jesus? How would you have responded?
- ***"and he made haste, and came down, and received Him joyfully."***
  - Zacchaeus was eager and joyful to receive Jesus into his home.
  - Zacchaeus accepted Jesus because Jesus accepted him.
- Verse 7 – How did the crowd respond to Jesus' conversation with Zacchaeus?
  - ***"they all murmured, saying, that He has gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner."***
    - The crowd didn't expect Jesus to reach out to a despicable tax collector.
    - They "murmured" and disapproved when they heard Jesus would be a guest at his home.
- **Why does Jesus make a point of befriending the friendless?**

### **Repentant** (Luke 19:8-10)

- Zacchaeus, Jesus, and no doubt the crowd followed them to Zacchaeus' home.
- We don't know what conversations Jesus and Zacchaeus had, the Bible doesn't say.
- We do know Zacchaeus stood and said ***"Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor"***
  - "Behold" is used to draw attention to something or to mean "here and now"
  - Half his wealth would be given to the poor, Zacchaeus was serious about changing his life.
- Second, Zacchaeus committed to paying back fourfold anything he had taken from anyone.
  - Mosaic law required stolen property to be returned plus 20 percent.
  - Most importantly, Zacchaeus referred to Jesus as Lord. This acknowledges Jesus' authority.
- Jesus declared ***"this day is salvation come to this house"***.
  - Zacchaeus was not saved by good works.
  - He was not saved because he was a son of Abraham.
- Zacchaeus found salvation "this day" because Jesus came to save the lost. All can know Jesus as Lord.
  - None of us have sinned enough to be beyond God's plan of salvation through His Son JESUS!
- **What impact does your life and faith have on others?**

### **Biblical Truth:**

**Acceptance awaits those who seek Jesus in repentance.**

*"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." John 3:17*



For the Son of man  
is come to seek  
AND TO SAVE  
that which was lost.