

Forgiven

Luke 19:1-10

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A. No Matter Past Life (Vs. 1-4):

1. There was a man name Zaccheus – Zaccheus was a chief tax collector. They would charge more than required so they could take a cut for themselves. As the chief tax collector, he received income from his job plus a cut from everyone below him, which would, of course, make him very rich.
 - a) This episode is a fitting conclusion to a section that has sometimes been called “The Gospel to the Outcast.” Zacchaeus is the ultimate of Israel’s outcasts, not just a hated tax collector, but a *chief* tax collector, the worst among the worst.¹
2. He was trying to see who Jesus was – Hearing that Jesus was entering his village, Zaccheus persistently made every effort to examine who Jesus was carefully. No one would probably willingly give him a chance to see Jesus, but there was no way they were going to stop him.
3. He was unable because of the crowd – Zaccheus’ reputation combined with the size and disorderly nature of the crowd made it impossible for him to see Jesus. He was relentless in his efforts, but it yielded no good view of Christ.
4. He ran on ahead of the crowd – Zaccheus decided to, once and for all, to go ahead of all the people into a sycamore tree. This exposes how determined Zaccheus was.
5. He ran on ahead of the crowd to see Jesus - We can just experience being in attendance at church or experiencing Christ intimately (Christ went to his house); it is a choice because He is available to us all. Experiencing Christ takes effort, a person must humble themselves and be willing to change, Christ seeing their heart leads to transformation. Please note:
 - a) “Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven-for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” (Luke 7:47).
 - b) “*There is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, more than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.*” (Luke 15:7)

B. Jesus Cares (vs. 5-6):

¹ Arnold, C. E. (2002). [*Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary: Matthew, Mark, Luke*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 461). Zondervan.

1. When Jesus came to the place - The phrase 'when Jesus came to the place,' does not just mean He arrived where Zaccheus was. It means Jesus intentionally came to that location because He knew Zaccheus believed in Him and would follow Him.
2. He looked up and said - The call the faith:
 - a) No man seeks God no not one (Romans 3:11).
 - b) God draws people to Himself (John 6:44). Jesus's reputation impacted a man with the worst reputation in the area.
 - c) Zaccheus - good soil (Luke 8:4-15); the crowd????
 - d) Faith comes by hearing (Romans 10:17). Zaccheus responded to Christ right away with no questions.
 - e) Christ came for that one person. No one else is mentioned as being saved in this area.
3. Today I must stay at your house – Jesus said:
 - a) 'Today' is an appointed time when the Lord speaks to our hearts; do not delay.
 - b) 'Must' - Zaccheus must find it urgent and necessary to come down.
 - c) 'Stay' - Jesus was going to remain at his house. When we get saved, the Lord remains in our hearts (Eph. 1:13).
4. Received Him gladly – To receive Christ means Zaccheus was more than willing to show genuine hospitality to Christ.

C. He Loves Us When No One Else Does (vs. 7-10):

1. Saying – gone to be a guest of a sinner – The crowd did not just indignantly grumble for a moment; they kept speaking out loud against Jesus. They called Zaccheus a heinous, habitual sinner.
2. Saying – gone to be a guest of a sinner – People love to remind us of our past.
3. Zaccheus stopped and said behold, Lord - Zaccheus did not say Rabbi or 'you are a great prophet,' He said Lord, the one who reigns and is King overall. This is why Zaccheus would readily come down from the tree and do whatever Christ told him to do.
4. Jesus said to him - After Zaccheus repented and committed to what was just (what was right). Signifies a repentant heart.
5. TODAY, Salvation has come to this house – The entire point of the meeting was to provide Zaccheus eternal deliverance from God's justice and the bondage of sin. Christ knew Zaccheus's heart was ripe, ready to accept Christ, and for that reason Christ came. 'Today,' it was Zaccheus's divine appointed time to make Christ his Lord.
6. Seek and to save that which was lost – What took place with Zaccheus is a very vivid example of Christ mission to purposefully endeavor (seek) to provide 'spiritual and eternal deliverance' to all those who by faith accept His invitation to come to Him and repent from their sins (Acts 4:12). It

does not matter how utterly wicked they may have been. Christ's salvation is a complete deliverance.

7. Seek and to save that which was lost – Christ's love for us drives Him to seek and to save (Luke 19:10).