

## Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ Zacchaeus

### Greeting

I am so very happy to see all of you!  
I love you and missed you last week

Also, greetings to our FB Live viewers  
Monica and I were viewers last week and it was wonderful to be a part of the  
congregation receiving the Bread of Life  
So, welcome!  
And if you are a regular viewer, I invite and encourage you to be a part of what God is  
doing here...be a doer and not just a viewer, if you are able

And on that note, I just want to “frame” what God is doing here

Our Gov’t is at war...with itself!  
The fabric of the society in which we live is unraveling, society has turned on itself  
Lawlessness is rising, the stench of hypocrisy is palpable  
Civility is bullied by rudeness and crudeness; hostility and vulgarity are normal  
“Outrageous” is the best way to describe what many say and do  
Common sense is vanishing, nonsense and absurdities are mounting  
Fear and hate are sold with every “news” story;  
the news is no longer the news, it is opinion and agenda (even Weather Channel!)  
The decisions made 55 yrs ago are bearing fruit: right is wrong and wrong is right

It is enough to make one question, “What is true and what is false?”  
It is enough to discourage the strongest of souls  
It is enough to suck the hope out of anyone...anyone that does not know Jesus Christ

What God is doing here is providing a sanctuary of Truth and hope and peace and  
encouragement and love for whosoever will enter

Here...

- we preach the Gospel to the lost and teach the Word of God to make disciples
- we are not given the spirit of fear, but of power and love and a sound mind
- perfect love casts out fear
- we cast our cares upon the Lord Jesus Christ because He cares for us
- we are sanctified by God’s truth – His Word is truth
- we have a blessed hope (certainty) – the return of Jesus Christ for us who love  
and trust Him
- we have a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path – the Word of God

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us  
So we study the Word of God, we are studying the Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ...  
and are edified, encouraged, and comforted as we do so

Last times...Jesus turned to go to Jerusalem for the final time

He told His disciples how His ministry was going to end (Luke 18:31-34),  
they were amazed and afraid and did not understand

James and John made a power play for positions of power and influence in Jesus' kingdom, much to the indignation of the other 10 disciples

Jesus contrasted "great" in the kingdoms of man vs the kingdom of God

Jesus healed two blind men, one of them named Bartimaeus, outside of Jericho  
(between the Jerichos)

Jesus' heart was no doubt heavy as He made His way to Jerusalem and the Cross that is awaiting Him there, where He

- who knew no sin will be made sin
- will be made a curse for us

Yet He had the time and the compassion to be interrupted by one crying for mercy  
In uniquely Messianic fashion (Is 35:4-6), Jesus healed the blind men,

- making whole (saving) one who followed him
- electrifying the multitude accompanying Him

This time...as the walk/climb to Jerusalem (3325 feet in elevation, 18 miles) continues,  
Jesus sees a little man up a tree and barriers are broken

We will be in Luke 19

v1 entered and passed through:

The Gospel of Luke is written to the Romans

There were 2 Jerichos:

1. old: in ruins from the days of Joshua's conquest
2. new: west of "old" built by Herod the Great at this very important junction of many roads

Jesus has entered and passed thru "new" Jericho...is west of both Jerichos...  
on the road to Jerusalem

v2 Zacchaeus...chief...rich:

In the new Jericho built by Herod the Great is a high ranking tax collector  
His name is Zacchaeus

He is considered by his fellow countrymen to be a thief, a traitor, and an  
enemy agent

He is “chief among the publicans”...therefore, chief among thieves and  
traitors

He was rich...very likely an understatement

He is a contrast to the Rich Young Ruler that came to see Jesus on the  
other side of the Jordan River (Luke 18:18-25)

The RYR was a man of integrity and influence,  
honored by his fellow countrymen...

Zacchaeus was despised

And as we shall see, Zacchaeus is also a contrast from the RYR after  
meeting and hearing Jesus

v3-4 sought to see Jesus...climbed up into a sycamore tree:

The Jewish people are abuzz about the Prophet, Jesus of Nazareth

- His teachings
- His miracles
- His humility
- His fearlessness in confronting the religious leaders

Zacchaeus has heard all the buzz that passed thru his taxing station  
Additionally, is it possible that Zacchaeus heard thru “company channels” the  
testimony of Levi/Matthew?

Zacchaeus had never seen or met Jesus

But now the whole town is electrified by His presence

So Zacchaeus “sought to see Jesus”...as had the RYR

But Zacchaeus faced several barriers preventing him from seeing Jesus

- the press...crowd, the multitude surrounding Jesus  
not today’s press that itself is a barrier to seeing the truth
- his stature – he was short (no short jokes, I promise!)

Zacchaeus could not see Jesus, but he was not to be denied!

He demonstrated determination and perseverance and great desire by  
running ahead of the crowd and climbing up a sycamore tree in  
order to get an unobstructed “bird’s eye” view of Jesus

In so doing Zacchaeus did NOT dignify himself or his Gov't office...  
he humbled himself and subjected himself to ridicule from all  
others – little man up a tree!

In Zacchaeus, we see

Determination

Perseverance

Great desire to see Jesus

Humility

All qualities encouraged by the Word of God

All qualities forged in a disciple's life by the trials and tribulations  
of the world

v5 looked up and saw him...make haste...I must abide:

As Jesus makes His way, He looks up and sees the little man up a tree

This speaks to the motive in Zacchaeus' heart:

he wanted to see Jesus, and Jesus saw him

As opposed to

- the motive in Herod Antipas' heart: he wanting to see Jesus  
(enemy in Luke 13:31-33, entertainment in Luke 23:8)  
but Jesus not wanting to see him
- the motive of certain Greeks' hearts: they wanted to see Jesus  
(celebrity in John 12:12-25) but Jesus did not see them

The motive of Zacchaeus' heart was right, not self-serving/seeking...  
so Jesus saw him

Had Zacchaeus ever met Jesus or had Jesus ever met Zacchaeus?

No, on both counts

Yet Jesus addressed the humbled little man up a tree...by name

The One Who reads hearts knows the names of every lost sheep

And Jesus told him to hustle down out of that tree

(Jesus did not tell any short jokes, either)

because...He and Zacchaeus have a Divine appointment,

known from before the foundation of the world:

Jesus is going to Zacchaeus' home for a "rest stop" on His journey...

a "rest stop" in more ways than one

v6 made haste...received him joyfully:  
Zacchaeus hustled as commanded and received Jesus into his home joyfully  
I guess so!  
He sought to see Jesus, he “fought” to see Jesus  
He did see Jesus  
And on top of that,  
“He knows my name!”  
“He wants to commune with me in my home!”  
 (“Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner!”)  
Luke 18:10-14 in reality vs in parable form

In Jesus’ thinking: Mark 9:37b  
*whosoever shall receive Me, receiveth not Me, but Him that sent Me*

v7 they all murmured...a man that is a sinner:  
The multitude accompanying (but not following) Jesus objects.  
They murmured; the Lord never likes murmuring/dissension

The dissidents whose hearts are not right are not pleased that Jesus would choose to rest in the home of an odious and hated sinner...  
just as was the case with the Pharisees when Jesus communed with publicans and sinners

- in Matthew’s house in Galilee after publican Matthew dropped everything to follow Jesus (Matt 9:10, Mark 2:15-17)
- in Perea (Luke 15:1-2)

But...

Mark 2:17 *They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance*

and

1 Tim 1:15 *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief*

Jesus will be working while resting in Zacchaeus’ home

The condemning dissidents are self-righteous...and we must learn from them also  
On our journey, as we labor to enter into God’s rest...  
by believing in God’s finished work (Heb 4:1-11)  
We must labor to walk in the Spirit to not fulfill the lust of the flesh;  
condemnation and self-righteousness are of the flesh, not the Spirit

As we follow Jesus, we see things under constant attack by the world and the prince of this world:

- Grace of God by the self-righteous condemnation of the world
- Salvation by grace thru faith by the world's salvation by works
- Liberty/Freedom in Christ (John 8:31-32) by the bondage to the Law

Rev 12:10 Satan is the accuser of the brethren

accuser: *kategoroeo*

he lists and categorizes our failures...he "keeps book" on us  
he beguiles us (flesh) into self-righteously listing, categorizing,  
"keeping book" all the failures of others  
but...Is 64:6

so when we do...we are hypocrites helping Satan,  
we are Satan-like in our flesh

Rather...edify and be gracious and be Christ-like!

v8 Zacchaeus stood:

Jesus saw Zacchaeus, Zacchaeus came out of the tree, the murmurers  
murmured...and Zacchaeus stood (no short jokes, please)

What is in the white space between v7 and v8?

Jesus being received into and resting in Zacchaeus' house

And Jesus is working while He is resting, so I think it is very reasonable to  
think that Jesus spoke/taught/preached

Lord...I give...I restore:

After Jesus taught/preached, Zacchaeus stood...

How?

With the same determination and resolve with which he  
"sought to see Jesus"

Why?

To make an announcement: a bold

- confession of faith
  - Jesus is Lord, Supreme Authority/God
  - in Jesus, dedicating his life to Jesus,  
trusting the Lord and not his riches
- confession of sin and of fruit suitable of repentance
  - give (present tense, now not later or whenever I  
get around to it) to the poor
  - restore (present tense, now not later or whenever  
I get around to it) all ill-gotten gain to those  
I cheated (Ex 22:1)

Zacchaeus is entering into God's rest by believing in God's finished work;  
he is laboring to enter in by faith, no longer laboring to enter in by his works

Zacchaeus, chief among the publicans, is standing with Jesus

He is a contrast to the RYR, who trusted in his riches and could not let go of them  
to stand with/follow Jesus

He is now a faithful steward and therefore is not told by Jesus to give it all away

Luke 18:22-24

RYR was not saved, went away sorrowful

Zacchaeus trusted in Jesus instead of his riches...and...

v9-10 This day is salvation come to this house:

...and Zacchaeus, a rich man, is saved – John 5:24

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on  
him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into  
condemnation; but is passed from death unto life

Jesus reads hearts, He has read Zacchaeus' heart and given him a new one!

Zacchaeus is saved/justified/sanctified

- from the wrath of God and the wages of sin
- because by grace thru faith in Jesus, not by his works

Note: a play on words

“This day salvation is come to this house”

Jesus = “Jehovah is Salvation”

Jesus is the salvation of God (Luke 3:6)

Jesus is come to this house this day...and was joyfully received/believed

The Divine appointment of v5 (I must abide at thy house):

the salvation of Zacchaeus

he also is a son of Abraham:

The Jews regarded all publicans (local/Jew) as having forfeited their birthright as  
sons of Abraham

Jesus declares the exact opposite about Zacchaeus, chief among the publicans...  
particularly in God's meaning of the term vs the Jews' meaning

Rom 4:13-16

Gal 3:7, 26, 29

Son of man...to seek and to save...lost:

Matt 18:11 For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost

The fulfillment of Ezk 34:1-12, 13-15, 16, 17-23

Let us consider the barriers that confronted Zacchaeus and his resolve and determinations that led to the breaking down of those barriers

<u>Barrier</u>	<u>broken</u>
Size	Zacchaeus sought to see Jesus
Crowd	Zacchaeus sought to see Jesus
Wealth	Luke 18:24-25 but Zacchaeus let go of his trust in riches
Sin	Rom 10:17, Zacchaeus heard and believed James 1:22, Zacchaeus was a hearer and a doer of the Word

### **Believer**

Every one of us that is a new creature in Christ faced barriers that prevented us from seeing Jesus

- Pride (“size” of Self)
- Religion (salvation by works)
- Pleasure in the lusts of the flesh (lovers of self more than lovers of God)
- Traditions, peer pressure, etc

Yet those barriers were broken by

- resolve and determination to see Jesus
- faith
- God’s grace
- God’s love
- Jesus Christ

Now, let’s stand with Jesus as Zacchaeus stood with Jesus

In our families, neighborhoods, workplaces  
Open our mouths boldly to make known the Gospel

Be holy, for He is holy

- Set apart unto Jesus Christ – in Christ, Christ-like
- Set apart from the world – in but not of, different than
- Not talking like or acting like those who do not stand with Jesus
- Have no fellowship with darkness but do the will of God as followers of God

Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, put on the armor of God to stand

- against the prince of this world
- with Jesus

Redeeming the time for the days are evil

Be lights in the world (Sai’s message last week)

Live as children of Light

Invite those in darkness to come out of the craziness of the world and into a sanctuary of truth and hope and peace and love

## Lost

Those who are not standing with Jesus but blindly standing with the prince of this world

Perhaps here and on FB Live, are now facing barriers preventing them from seeing Jesus

You have heard of Zacchaeus and Jesus...what do you say?

Have you

- a persevering determination to see Jesus?
- the humility to do what is necessary to see Jesus, even if others ridicule you?
- a “sense” (Holy Spirit testifying of Jesus Christ to you personally) and a measure of faith to see, hear, and believe what Jesus is saying?
- a heart touched by the love and grace of God?

2Cor 6:2...today is a Divine appointment for you and Jesus  
present tense, now not later or whenever you get around to it

Salvation is come to this house!

Jesus has been seeking you, sees you, knows your name, and wants to have a “rest stop”  
with you...this day

The ball is in your court; what will you do – this day?

The most rational thing you can do is to receive Him joyfully and trust your life to  
Him

Will you

- invite Him into your heart?
- confess Him as Lord of your life?
- repent of your sins and follow Jesus?
- receive God’s gift of salvation from the wages of sin (death)?