

Readings

Scripture

¹He entered Jericho and was passing through. ²And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. ⁴So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. ⁵And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." ⁶So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. ⁷And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." ⁸And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." ⁹And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

- Luke 19:1-10 (English Standard Version)

Reflection

An idol is anything in my life that occupies the place that should be occupied by God alone. An idol is anything that holds such a controlling position in my life that it moves and rouses and attracts me so easily that I give my time, my attention, my energy, and my money to it effortlessly.

- Martin Lloyd-Jones, *Life In Christ: Studies in 1 John* (p. 729)

For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

- Jeremiah 2:13 (English Standard Version)

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- Matthew 6:19–21 (English Standard Version)

Sermon Outline

Surprised

Luke 19:1-10

A Changed Life

Brad Anderson

When you came looking for Jesus, what did you expect to find? (Luke 19:1-4)

Did it surprise you to find a new love? (Luke 19:5-6)

Did it surprise you to find a new community? (Luke 19:7-10)

Reflection Questions

(taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- As a kid, what was your favorite tree to climb? Did you ever build a tree house? Out of what?
- How do you feel about your height? If you were six inches taller, how would you feel?
- What is significant about Zacchaeus and his vantage point?
- Why does Jesus want to dine with him? Why does this bother others?
- How does this rich "sinner" differ from the rich ruler in Luke 18:18-30: In approach? In response?
- On what basis does Jesus confirm Zacchaeus' salvation (Luke 19:8-10)?
- Where did Jesus first find you: Up a tree? Out on a limb? How did he get you to come down: A little coaxing? A big scare?
- If Jesus stopped under the tree you're climbing, what would he say?
- What did you expect to find when you came looking for Jesus? Were you surprised to find a new love in Jesus Christ? Where you surprised to find a new community, filled with sinners?