



DESPISED “The Unlikable & Unnoticeable” *Luke 19:1-10* March 2, 2014

Zaccheus Seeks Jesus

- ✓ He was the Leader
- ✓ He was Loaded
- ✓ He was Loathed and Lonely
- ✓ He was Little
- ✓ He was Looking
- ✓ He Laid it On the Line

Zaccheus Meets Jesus

- ✓ He Sees Me
- ✓ He Knows Me
- ✓ He Wants Me
- ✓ He Wants to Be With Me
- ✓ He Loves Me
- ✓ He Found Me

Zaccheus Reacts To Jesus – His 180° Moment

- ✓ He Responds Quickly
- ✓ He Rejoices
- ✓ He Receives
- ✓ He is Revolutionized
- ✓ He is Redeemed and His Entire Family

- ✓ Others Realized He was Different

The Crowd Misses It

- ✓ They Complained
- ✓ They Criticized
- ✓ They Missed the Miracle

Jesus Reminds Them of...

- ✓ His Message
- ✓ His Mission

Our 180° Moment

1. Jesus is looking for you today, do you hear Him calling out your name? You have the choice to climb out of your tree and come to Him quickly, for He is waiting. What will your response be? It is time to take the **180° turn** today! Remember, it is as easy as ABC! **Admit** you are a sinner, **Believe** that Jesus is God’s Son, & **Confess** Him as Savior & Lord & **Commit** your life to Him!
2. Will we join Jesus in this incredible mission and share His message with those people like Zaccheus that are looking and seeking for the Savior. They are out there, the question is: Are we looking and are we willing to share? Would you name 1 person in your life who you need to share the good news with this week?
3. Spend time rejoicing in the fact that Jesus sees you, knows your name, loves you, and wants to spend time with you. Would you invite Him into your “house” every day this week?
4. Fathers, would you lead the way realizing that as goes your spiritual walk, so goes your entire family. Ask Him to help you do just that!
5. Can others see the changes in you? If not, ask Christ to show you where you need to change so others can see!
6. Let’s don’t be like the crowd that day and be critical and complain so we don’t miss the miracle of a new life!!
7. Let be on the same mission that Jesus was and still is!! To Seek and to offer the Good News to those who are lost!!

U-TURN: 180° THE TURNED AROUND LIFE

DESPISED

“The Unlikable & Unnoticeable”

Luke 19:1-10

March 2, 2014 AM Service

We begin a new series today, one I am looking forward to for I love reading the gospels about Jesus and how He affected the people that came in contact with Him. That is what we will do over the next 9 weeks particularly in the book of Luke and then using the other gospels who also recorded the same events to shed light on the story. We'll look at 9 people, or sometimes groups of people who lives came in touch with Jesus and they had an 180° moment in their life.

I am praying for each of us as we encounter each message that we identify with each character and how we can relate to them and then how we can relate to Jesus and what He did for these people.

Every one of us have had what I call dead end moments in our lives, whether we are in one right now, or there could be one right around the corner, we are in a dead end, no win situation. The question is not will we have them, but what we will do when we get to them.

I am praying for each of us to have some 180° moments in our lives. For you see, when we truly meet Jesus, come and meet Him face to face, we can never be the same again. These 180° moments could be for some to find Christ for the first time, for others to make their profession of faith public, to join this church family, to make their marriage right again, to deal with a sickness in their life like this morning, dealing with disappointment, or death, or difficult situations. Let's talk about them, look at them, and then let's go to the Lord with them.

Zaccheus Seeks Jesus Vs 1-4

✓ **He was the Leader of the tax collectors** He was the chief tax collector – he oversaw all the other tax collectors. He was at the top of his game, he had climbed the ladder to the highest point, he was somebody. He had arrived. He worked for the Romans collecting taxes. He was free to collect more than what was required as long as they paid the Romans off. As a result, they were hated and despised by their fellow Jews.

(Remember, Matthew was a tax collector)

- ✓ **He was Loaded (rich)** He had everything he wanted. Unlike the rich he was sure enough wealthy beyond many other Jews around him. However, he wasn't happy, something was missing.
- ✓ **He was Loathed (hated) and Lonely** He not only collected taxes from his own people but also worked for the unclean Gentiles! And publicans were notorious for collecting more taxes than required, the more money they collected, the more income they enjoyed .
ILLUS: India people collecting taxes by setting up roadblocks. He was a renegade in the eyes of the Jews and therefore probably had few friends outside of his tax collector friends and some Romans. Robbers, murderers and tax collectors were all classed together.
- ✓ **He was Little** He was short, small in stature. Possibly had a self esteem problem, we call it the little man syndrome. He couldn't get through the crowd to even see Jesus which tells us why he did it
- ✓ **He was Looking** Jesus went to Jericho looking for the most ready and open person there. Though Zaccheus seemed the least pious and the least religious, he was the most hungry for the new life God had for him.
- ✓ **He Laid it On the Line** In the East it is unusual for a man to run, especially a wealthy government official, yet Zaccheus ran down the street Like a little boy following a parade. And he even climbed a tree! He didn't let his pride stop him from at least seeing Jesus, though perhaps he even wanted to meet Jesus, yet could that possible, would he even meet with him anyway? I just got to see Him! He was desperate to see Jesus, willing to do whatever it took.

Zaccheus Meets Jesus Vs 5-7

- ✓ **He Sees Me** 2 Chronicles 16:9

Out of the entire crowd gathered along the road that day, He saw everyone in the crowd but at the same time sees Zaccheus individually. The same is true today – God sees all 7 billion people on our planet, but He sees us as individuals. He sees us no matter what condition or state we are in, in the darkness or in the light. He sees everything about us. He takes the time to stop and recognize that I even exist out of all these people, I catch his eye and he catches mine and I am locked in.

✓ **He Knows Me** [Isaiah 43:1](#)

Called him by name. [Psalm 139](#) – even in my mother’s womb. Nothing means more to us than hearing our name called out, so important and here Jesus whom he has never met calls his name. By the way, let us not miss this huge point– his name meant righteous one or innocent – how not fitting of the name he was, but as we will see when Jesus gets a hold of his life it fits him to a tee! Jesus saw in him what he could not see in himself. Do you see that in you? Do you see it in others? Do you know that Jesus is calling you by name today? I can remember the day He called out my name, November 7, 1979, and I can still hear Him calling. DO you remember your day?

✓ **He Wants Me** (my heart) [Isaiah 43:4](#)

It is obvious by his seeing him, his stopping his calling him by name, and even the fact that He knows everything about me, and yet He still wants me. I am not even sure that I want myself sometimes, and yet Jesus wants me. He chooses me! Jesus wants you today! Unbelievable! [Psalm 139](#) again – thinks about me more than all the sands on all the seashores in the world!

✓ **He Wants to Be With Me** (come to my house) [Revelation 3:20](#)

Jesus goes further, I want you, and I want to spend time with you, to put everything else aside and spend time with just you!

Jesus invites Himself, a pious Jew wouldn’t be caught dead in the house of a tax collector, much less a sinner!

Can Jesus come to your home – would you be glad to receive Him or embarrassed? Yet, remember we don’t have to clean up to come to Jesus. Jesus is coming to my home, I cannot miss it, And yet it is offered today, no I can’t make it, too busy, must clean up, etc.

By the way, Jesus invites us to meet him every day, and to meet Him on Sundays, every Sunday! It is appointment He keeps, do we? Or do we make excuses? Every day their people dying for their faith all over our world and yet we allow the littlest thing to keep us from being in Worship together with the body of Christ.

I must stay at your house today – it is imperative? Why? Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem and just as I have shared from the story of blind Bartimaeus, so too did he realize the urgency of time for Jesus was about to enter Jerusalem for the final week before the crucifixion.

✓ **He Loves Me** [Isaiah 43:4](#)

Tell me about you, enough about me, lets talk about you, for when you and I sit in the presence of the Ultimate Love and Lover you and I are the agenda.

✓ **He Found Me** [Jeremiah 29:13](#); [Isaiah 55:6](#)

I was seeking Him and instead He found me. I wanted to find Him, but He has found me. He doesn't play hide and go seek with us – He knows where we are – just like He did with Adam and Eve – He simply opens the door so that we know we are found.

Zaccheus Reacts To Jesus – His 180° Moment [Vs 5-9](#)

✓ **He Responds Quickly** he didn't sit around, think about it, tell the Lord today just isn't a good day, bad hair day, a little too tired, a little too busy, no he came down immediately

✓ **He Rejoices** I mean he is one happy guy, I think maybe he is looking around me, you are talking about. There is no way, oh yeah I am coming down, and I am pumped about it!

✓ **He Receives Jesus into his home** [John 10:1-5, 7-10](#)

In the same fashion that we receive him into our hearts and lives.

✓ **He is Revolutionized**

I mean on the way or once they got there, in there time together, or maybe even before, he is ready to make things right he just spits it out, Lord I know I need to do this to make it right, not to earn my salvation but simply as evidence of my salvation!

He says, I will give away ½ and repay 4 times what I took before they even get to his house – just being with Him he is convicted and convinced to give away half of his possession, and repay those whom he had cheated 4 times that amount (He want way above what the law required – why? He was so touched by Jesus and His grace)

✓ **He is Redeemed and His Entire Family – He repented!!**

He turned from his sin and to the Savior! His whole house was saved! When Dad gets right with God, so can the rest of his family. I still believe and we saw evidences of it this past Fall, and I am praying that it will still happen, is when the men of this church get serious about their walk with God, put their foot down and say as Joshua did, [Joshua 24:14-15](#) Is his family saved because he was saved, no. They each had

to make a choice, but because Dad had lived up to his role and his calling in life, his family followed behind. Not the only time this is mentioned in Scripture either. See [Acts 16:22-34, esp. 28-34](#) I want to see revival come in my life, my home, and this church and it will happen I believe when the men of God start acting like it, and when those who don't know Him and are lost get found and get right, and live for Jesus everything will eventually fall into place!

✓ **Others Realized He was Different**

No doubt Zaccheus was changed, tons of people had to know about it, the poor folks that lived in his neighborhood sure knew about it, for this tax collector he was once a thief was now a saint, and those he had stolen from were left were their jaws hitting the floor. People knew he was changed – his actions demonstrated it

The Crowd Misses It Vs 6

- ✓ **They Complained**
- ✓ **They Criticized – they judged**
- ✓ **They Missed the Miracle**

Jesus Reminds Them of... Vs 10

- ✓ **His Message** God's love is offered to them and He was about to
- ✓ show them how amazing that love was. This call is echoed from last week to Take up your cross daily, deny yourself, and follow me.
- ✓ **His Mission** [to seek and to save that which was lost](#) - John 10:10
ILLUS: Looking for lost cell phone when it snowed – Pierce's called them up, hey can you help me find my phone, even though I just found it. Or coming to my house and I am looking for something, how ridiculous for you to come and say here it is, and I say not now I am looking, or oh I see it and keep looking for it.

The word lost does not mean damned or doomed. It is simply in the wrong place. A think is lost when is has got out of its own place into the wrong place; and when we find such a thing, we return it to the place it ought to occupy. Man is lost when he has wandered away from God; and he is found when once again he takes his rightful place as an obedient child in the household and the family of His Father. Hell wasn't created for man, but for the devil and his demons. Heaven was created for us, and we are lost until we find it!

Song: Come and Make My Heart Your Home

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