



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

LUKE 19:1-10

LESSON: JESUS SEEKS OUT ZACCHAEUS—

January 12, 2025

INTRODUCTION:

CHAPTER 18:35-43 Jesus drew near Jericho and encountered a certain blind man sitting by the side of the road begging. This blind man heard the multitude and began to ask what it meant. The people began to tell him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. So he began to cry "*Jesus thou son of David, have mercy on me.*" They want him to stop crying out to the Lord, but he cried out the more again, "*thou son of David, have mercy on me.*" He got Jesus' attention, for then Jesus commanded that the blind man be brought to him. When he got to Jesus, Jesus asked "*What will you have me to do? And the man desired to receive his sight.*" Next, Jesus says "Receive thy sight, thou faith has saved thee." It wasn't later, but "*immediately the man received his sight and following Jesus and glorifying God.*" Then "*when all the people saw what had happened, they too gave praise to God.*"

LESSON:

I. LUKE 19:1-6

19:1 And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. So, after Jesus heals a blind man near Jericho, He now enters the city and passes through it.

19:2 And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. Jesus makes another encounter with a man whose name was Zacchaeus, chief among the publicans. A "*publican*" was a tax collector, usually a fellow Jew who worked for the Roman government. They usually collected more taxes than what he had to. So the publican would use the extra money for himself, which made him very rich. Publicans were despised by the Jews for their cheating and for serving the Roman government. We know that if Zacchaeus was the chief among publicans, then he had others that worked under him. So, we see how Zacchaeus became rich.

19:3 And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. Zacchaeus was small in stature, yet, he pursued to see Jesus. Being so little in stature, it was dangerous for him to be out in the midst of a crowd that despised him. From all indications he was blocked and couldn't get through the crowd, probably being shoved back and forth.

19:4 And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. Yet, Zacchaeus persevered in his attempt to see Jesus, and he had to humble himself to do it. Imagine Zacchaeus a man of position and wealth climbing a tree just to see an important person pass by. He climbed a sycamore tree with its wide spreading branches; it's a cross between a fig and a mulberry tree—good for climbing. He wanted to see Jesus so badly that he forgot everyone around him and humbled himself and climbed that tree. He was determined to see the Lord and nothing was going to stop him. Zacchaeus probably didn't know why he struggled to see Jesus, but Jesus knew, and it paid off!



19:5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. Jesus looked up and was really pleased when He saw Zacchaeus. Can you hear the joy in the Master's voice? He wanted Zacchaeus to hurry up and come down out of that tree because He says, *"I must be a guest at your house."* Jesus just invited Himself into a sinner's home. That's not the only thing that made Zacchaeus happy: Jesus called him by his name. What will we do when the Savior calls our name and invites Himself into our abode? It's a mighty glorious experience!

19:6 And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. Zacchaeus didn't waste any time. He quickly came down, receiving the Master with joy taking Him to his home. Remember, Jesus was on His way to somewhere, but He stopped, had time to present Himself to a sinner in need of Him. Jesus had only a couple of hours before He had to move on to fulfill His purpose. The moment of opportunity was then and there, that day. When Jesus calls your name, answer the call with haste. The next day it would be gone. *"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me"* Rev.3:20. That's what Zacchaeus did!

II. LUKE 19:7-10

19:7 And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. You couldn't help but be joyful in the Master's presence, but I guess some just couldn't take it, for all they could do was murmur. Note, it said "all !" All murmured because Jesus had the nerve to be a guest in a sinner's home. The crowd began to display some self-righteousness. They didn't like Jesus eating and associating with a known and confessed sinner; as if they could tell Jesus where to go and who to eat with. But evidently they didn't know that their sin was murmuring and grumbling and complaining—that's the great sins of Israel in the wilderness. They really misunderstood Jesus' purpose for coming to earth—to save sinners!

19:8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. Just by Jesus coming to Zacchaeus' house, compelled him to stand up and declare half of his goods to the poor. He even goes on to declare that if he's taken anything falsely, he would restore fourfold (four times) back to the people. By doing this jester, Zacchaeus had repented and changed his whole life. He completely turned around from his sinful life, to God and God's way of righteousness. Isn't that what repentance is? He did exactly what the rich young ruler refused to do. Think of the people he had cheated? This could really wipe him out! He was serious about following Jesus and Jesus' Way of living!

19:9 And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. Jesus speaks to Zacchaeus and proclaims that this day salvation has come to his house, making him also a son of Abraham. Wow! Do you see how quickly the Lord moved when the heart is right? And only God is able to see the heart! This meant that repentance saved Zacchaeus and Zacchaeus would bring the message of salvation to his whole



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household! It only takes one in the house. Maybe some of you have been praying a long time for family members, and they still won't act right. But remember God's Word, "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shall be saved, and thy house*" Acts 16:31. Don't give up on the Lord for it is He who saves and brings salvation. You are just the planter of His Word; the prayer warrior! The heart hears, but there are unseen forces that bring distraction. God knows the timing of your family members. You just BELIEVE! Zacchaeus believed by faith. He had not seen anything the Lord had said, but he joyously received by faith. He received salvation by faith. And he became a son of Abraham by faith. (Read Gal.3:6-9).

19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Jesus, the Son of man sought Zacchaeus, and he was saved because Zacchaeus was lost. His life was going no where. He might of thought it was because of all the riches he had, but, he was perishing; being destroyed, losing eternal life, and being cut off from God. Jesus, the One who seeks and saves the lost is the One who sought Zacchaeus, and Zacchaeus put himself in a position to see Jesus. When Jesus speaks to a lost heart, they know they need Jesus. Jesus literally asked for Zacchaeus to receive Him when He invited Himself into his home (his heart). Anytime Jesus invites us to follow Him, He's inviting the heart. Who is filling your heart? Only after Zacchaeus received Jesus did Jesus save him!

SUMMARY:

After Jesus heals a blind man near Jericho, He now enters and passes through Jericho and encounters a man whose name was Zacchaeus, chief among the publicans, and was rich by being a tax-collector; cheating and stealing from people. He was a Jew working for the Roman government. Somehow, he heard or saw Jesus passing through Jericho, but couldn't quite see Him because of the people pressing and he being small in stature, so he ran and climbed onto a sycamore tree to see Him for himself. And wouldn't you know it, Jesus came to the spot Zacchaeus was at and "*looked up at him and said Zacchaeus made haste and came down, for Jesus would abide at his home that day.*" Oh my goodness, "*Zacchaeus received Jesus joyfully.*" **(19:1-6).**

Of course, when others saw this, they began to murmur why Jesus had to be a guest at this sinner's house. Just by Jesus coming to Zacchaeus' house compelled Zacchaeus to stand up and repent. He completely turned from his sinful life, to God. He declared that he would "*give back half of his goods to the poor. And if he's taken anything falsely, he would restore fourfold (four times)*" back to the people. Jesus proclaimed that this day salvation had come to his house, and he would be declared a son of Abraham. Why? – Because of his faith! Jesus had sought and saved the one who was lost, and restored him as a son of Abraham **(19:7-10).**