



Luke 19:1-10

1 Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.

2 Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.

3 And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature.

4 So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way.

5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house."

6 So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.

7 But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."

8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."

9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham;

10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

NKJV

It is not easy to love everyone. We are all sinners and there are things about each one of us that make us difficult to love. But there are some people that are much harder to love than others. Zacchaeus was one of those people.

To save Zacchaeus...

- Jesus chose to be with a man that was a thief.

One of the most difficult people to love is a thief. Thieves come in many different forms.

1. Some borrow money they never repay.
2. Some commit fraud.

3. Some use force to take what is yours.
4. Some sneak into your house and take your things.
5. Some do not pay you what you deserve.

Zacchaeus became rich by working as a tax collector for the government. He charged people more money than what was required by the government. By committing fraud, he had become rich.

But to save Zacchaeus, Jesus chose to be with a man that was a thief.

- Jesus chose to be with a man that was a traitor.

He worked for the enemy of his people, the Roman government. The Roman government suppressed the people of Israel. The Jews were not citizens of Rome and did not have the rights of citizens. If a Roman citizen accused a Jew of a crime, the Jew was presumed guilty. The Jews had to submit to whatever Roman citizens demanded of them. They could take your wife and your daughters. The government could take your children and force them into military service to fight their wars. They could occupy your home and your property. They could charge you whatever they wanted to charge you for basic things you needed. You had no recourse.

But to save Zacchaeus, Jesus chose to be with a man that was a traitor.

- Jesus chose to be with a man that was trouble.

There was no Jews in town that was happy to see him at their door. There was no Jews in town that would make eye contact with him when passing him in the street. Zacchaeus was despised by his own people and considered a man that no one should trust because of the trouble he could cause you.

But to save Zacchaeus, Jesus chose to be with a man that was trouble.

- Jesus chose to be with a man that was the town clown.

Behind closed doors, the Jews probably joked about his stature and how he stood behind the skirts of the Roman government. He probably was privately mocked and ridiculed.

But, on this day, to save Zacchaeus, Jesus chose to be with a man that was the town clown.

Why Zacchaeus of all the people in Jericho?  
Jesus answered this question when He said....

9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham;

10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

NKJV

To Jesus Zacchaeus was not more or less guilty of sin than any other Jews in Israel. They were all lost in their sins. Jesus came, lived, and died to seek and save that which was lost.

What happened to Zacchaeus?

The later Apostolic Constitutions identifies "Zacchaeus the Publican" as the first bishop of Caesarea.

The mission statement of Jesus became the mission statement of Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus lived to seek and save that which was lost.

What is your personal mission statement?

A **personal mission** statement is a written-down reason for why you exist.

I exist to\_\_\_\_\_.

To follow Jesus means to adopt His mission statement as your personal mission statement.

As a follower of Jesus, my mission statement should read, "I Jerry Wells, exist to seek and save that which was lost."

If we make the mission statement of Jesus our personal mission statement, it will have an incredible impact on how we live.

Some of us will be called to leave behind our family and friends to take the gospel to people that live in other parts of the world.

But even if we don't relocate, adopting the mission statement of Jesus will impact how we live in relationship with others.

- It will have an impact how we treat people.
- It will have an impact on who we choose to be with.

We will find ourselves being with people like Zacchaeus.

- Thieves
- Traitors
- Trouble
- Town clowns

Why would anyone of us want to become a Christian, if this is what Jesus is going to call us to do for others?

- Eternal life

John 3:16-21

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

NKJV

Jesus said there is much more at stake right now than the quality of our life on earth. Our health, our finances, our relationships are important to us.

But Jesus said we are eternal beings. This life will end, and we will live forever. What Jesus is most concerned about is the quality of our eternal life.

Jesus said the quality of our eternal life will be determined by the judgment of God for our sin.

The bible is filled with these wonderful images of what eternal life is like in heaven. (God's presence; beauty; love; indescribable joy; no pain; no sorrow; no more separation)

The bible is filled with these terrible images of what eternal life is like in what Jesus called Gehenna. Gehenna, or the valley of Hinnom, is an actual valley in the city of Jerusalem. In Israel's past, it was used as a place of child sacrifice. From the reign of Josiah onward, it was used as a garbage dump where the fires burned the refuse continuously.



Jesus used it to describe the living conditions for all sinners. Gehenna is the permanent place where sinners live to spend eternity apart from God. (Darkness; hate; pain; meaningless ness; indescribable sorrow; utter hopelessness).

Jesus said that the whole world has been condemned by God because of our sin. We have all been like Zacchaeus at some time in life. We have all been thieves, traitors, troublemakers, and town clowns. Jesus said the sentence has been issued. We are all on death row. Living in Gehenna is our future.



Jesus said that He did not come to condemn the world but to save it.

Jesus said to be saved from the judgment of God, we must believe His death paid for our sins and we must receive Him as our savior and Lord.

You should become a Christian to receive eternal life.

- [Eternal love](#)

Think about the people that you admire the most; the kind of relationships that you desire the most; that are the most joyful; that are the most peaceful; Isn't it those people that love others the most?

When we receive Jesus, He gives us His Spirit. His Spirit enables us to love others the way He loved others, like Zacchaeus.

The truth is you can be in great health and be wealthy and have incredible success, but if you don't have the ability to love others the way Jesus loved others, you will not have the quality of life that God intends for you to have right now.

Zacchaeus was willing to confess His faith in Jesus as the messiah without knowing what Jesus was going to do for Him. You know! Are you willing to confess Jesus Christ as your personal savior and Lord knowing what Jesus did for you? Yes or no?