

SERMON: JESUS MEETS ZACCHAEUS (A DIVINE ENCOUNTER)

Luke 19: 1-10

(1) And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. (2) And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. (3) And he sought to see Jesus who He was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. (4) And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him: for He was to pass that way. (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 today I must abide at thy house. (6) And he made haste, and came down, and received Him joyfully. (7) And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That He was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. (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 anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. (9) And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. (10) For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Introduction

The narrative of Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus is familiar to most of us. It is in many ways a microcosm of the saving work of our Savior. It is an encounter of a great sinner with the only great Savior. In the same way Jesus dealt with Zacchaeus He has dealt with each of us who are saved. Moreover, He is ready to do the same with those who are ready and willing to accept Him as Lord and Savior. Let's review this familiar narrative one more time and see how Jesus can make a real difference in our lives. Remember, it's the same soup warmed over. It is nutritious and we dare not change the recipe.

Exposition

1. Jesus Sought Zacchaeus.

(Jesus Knew Him By Name.)

2. Jesus Made A Loving Demand On Zacchaeus.

("I Must Abide At Thy House.")

3. Jesus Was Kind to Zacchaeus.

(Tax Collectors Were Outcasts.)

4. Jesus Saved Zacchaeus.

(Jesus Saves To The Uttermost.)

(Hebrews 7:25.)

5. Jesus Changed Zacchaeus.

(Zacchaeus Was Ready To Make Amends And Give To The Poor.)

6. Jesus Gave Zacchaeus Great Joy.

(Jesus Can Give Joy In The Midst Of Sorrow.)

(His Joy Is Much Better Than Worldly Happiness.)

Closing Thoughts

Zacchaeus' whole life was changed after he had a saving encounter with Jesus. The hymn writer said it best:

"What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought
 Since Jesus came into my heart!
 I have light in my soul for which long I had sought,
 Since Jesus came into my heart!
 Since Jesus came into my heart,
 Since Jesus came into my heart,
 Floods of joy o'er my soul
 Like the sea billows roll,
 Since Jesus came into my heart."

End Note

The word seek is a translation of the Greek word **zeto**, which depicts a search so intense that it could be compared to an investigation for something. It tells us that Jesus

has put forth and is putting forth His best efforts to actively seek to save and restore whatever Satan has tried to steal, kill, or destroy.

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