

SALVATION

As we Gather

On their way to Jerusalem, Jesus and the disciples passed through Jericho. This was one of the greatest tax centres in Palestine because of its position on trade routes and to a nearby port.

Reading Scripture **Psalm 119:137-144** **2 Thessalonians 1:1-4 + 11-12** **Luke 19:1-10**

Thinking Together

Zacchaeus was the supervisor of the tax collectors (Luke 5:27-32 & 18:2), and collected Temple taxes as well as those required by Rome. He was wealthy, disliked by Jews and Romans, lonely and an unhappy man (Luke 18:13).

The day that Jesus came to town changed him forever

- In spite of his position of power and authority, he became a child
 - = he was determined not to allow obstacles prevent him from seeing Jesus and bravely mingled with the crowds, risking attack (Luke 19:3 2 Thessalonians 1:4)
 - = he threw dignity aside and ran to a place where he could climb a tree to see over people (Luke 19:4)

John Calvin wrote “curiosity and simplicity are a sort of preparation for faith”

This was true of Zacchaeus, was it true of you before you met Jesus? Discuss

- He thought he was looking for Jesus (Luke 19:3), but Jesus was looking for him (Luke 19:10). By nature sinners do not look for their Saviour – but God comes looking for them (Romans 3:11 Genesis 3:1-10).

How do you think Zacchaeus felt when Jesus called out to him? Discuss (Luke 19:6)

How do you feel when your parents / spouse / friend remain loving even when you have said or done something to hurt them? Discuss

- Zacchaeus was spiritually lost while he measured himself against worldly standards – no one measures up to God’s standards (Romans 3:22-24). When he recognised his spiritual poverty and became a child of faith in his trust of Jesus (Romans 4:12 Galatians 3:6-7), he became a ‘true son of Abraham’ (Luke 19:10).

Are you a spiritual son / daughter of Abraham? Discuss

How did Zacchaeus react / respond to his inner change? Discuss
(Luke 19:8 Exodus 22:1-4 Leviticus 6:1-7)

Saving faith creates a living union with Christ that results in a changed life (James 2:14-26)

How is your life changing? Discuss (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12)

In Closing

The experience of salvation should always produce joy in a believer's heart

Has this been your experience?

For Zacchaeus the day ended in joyful fellowship with Jesus

How does your day end?

PRAYER

O God, in Christ you seek and save the lost;
visit us with the joy of salvation that we may
rejoice in the riches of your forgiveness.

Amen