

Encounters with Jesus.

STUDY Zacchaeus



Key verse: Luke 19: 10.
For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”



Big Idea: Rejected people are accepted by Jesus who saves them at great cost to himself.

Kick Off

With the desperate flood situation in Pakistan it is frustrating to hear how sluggish and disorganized the Pakistani government has been in response. In the face of such desperation do you feel anger when you hear of corrupt local ministers using their influence to channel international relief money to further their own concerns?

STUDY read Luke 19:1-11

The story of Zacchaeus is the story of a justifiably hated man who freely receives grace and salvation at a great cost to Jesus. Jesus offers forgiveness to a person whom everyone else felt deserved condemnation.

1. This is a very well constructed story with nine parts to it. The first four parts parallel the last four and the climax of the story is the centre section. The nine parts are as follows try and place the verse numbers to the headings.

1. Jesus comes
2. Zacchaeus – a rich man
3. The crowd hostile towards Zacchaeus
4. Up the tree
5. Jesus' act of costly love
6. Down the tree
7. The crowd hostile towards Jesus
8. Zaccharus – money for others
9. Jesus' final word of love.

2. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector. Why were they hated by the Jews? And why were they considered to be unclean people?

3. Zacchaeus is short and he climbs a tree to see Jesus. It's hardly likely that he would have been so well hidden that no one in the crowd would have spotted him. In what ways is Zacchaeus in a very awkward, embarrassing and possibly dangerous situation?
4. If we assume the crowd had spotted Zacchaeus perched up in the tree what would you think the crowd would have expected Jesus to have said in arriving at the tree?
5. How are the words of Jesus to Zacchaeus costly? What reasons can you give as to why Jesus would change his plans in verse one to pass through Jericho to staying overnight at Zacchaeus' place, verse five?
6. How overwhelmed is Zacchaeus at Jesus' acceptance of him in spite of his sin? Is what Zacchaeus pledges to do reasonable or even possible?
7. Jesus restores Zacchaeus back into the family of Abraham the man who went out responding to the call of God, not knowing where that might lead him. How is salvation both a once off event and a life time of action?

THINK AND APPLY

In what ways are you overwhelmed at the Lord's grace to you a 'sinner' and how is that reflected in the way you live on a daily basis?

How are we to be imitators of Christ when it comes to treating outsiders who are 'sinners' with grace? Who are the Zacchaeus' we dislike and disapprove of?

PRAYER

What can you pray about arising from this study?



**For next week
Read John
20:24-31**