

Zaccheus, The Wee Little Man – Luke 19:1-10

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Introduction

1. We all know this story about “A Wee Little Man” – Zaccheus. Unfortunately, many of us stopped studying this story at the age of eight! This is not a “biblical fairy tale.” It has some profound revelations made in persons and events that we must search out...

I. A Man “Up A Tree”

- a. Zaccheus Literally In A Tree
 - i. A man was literally up a tree in Jericho. He was Zaccheus. Jericho was a very wealthy and very important town. It had a great palm forest and world-famous balsam groves which perfumed the air for miles around. It was also one highest taxed centers in Palestine.
 - ii. The phrase “up a tree” means “deep trouble,” “up a creek without a paddle.” Zaccheus was publican (tax collector) and a very wealthy one. For a wealthy official it is amazing to see a man like this run and climb a tree like a curious child (Luke 18:17).
- b. Zaccheus Was Also “Up A Tree” With His People, Israel
 - i. A publican was a renegade, traitor, and crooked man. To the Jews he was an outcast. A publican made a five-year contract with Rome. This allowed him to tax, tax, tax the people. Zacchaeus was a man who had reached the top of his profession; and he was the most hated man in the district.
- c. Zaccheus Was “Up A Tree” With Himself
 - i. Zaccheus means “pure, righteous.” He betrayed his very name. Zacchaeus was wealthy but he was not happy. Jesus was known as a friend to sinners and tax collectors (maybe he knew Matthew) and he was seeking to meet Jesus.
- d. Zaccheus Was “Up A Tree” With God
 - i. Luke 19:10 is a familiar memorized verse. Most quote it without knowing its context. Jesus came to save folks like Zaccheus! That is grace!
 - ii. The word lost here does not mean condemned to hell but one that is “in the wrong place.” Any person who has wandered away from God is lost.

II. A Man “At Home” With Jesus

- a. Getting To Know Jesus
 - i. Jesus went to his house. No rabbi, scribe, or Pharisee would have. This was “friendship evangelism” or “table evangelism.”
 - ii. This was the greatest day in his life. Zaccheus was converted! A “rich man” can go to heaven. Accepting grace allowed Zaccheus to extend mercy. Zaccheus became generous, honest, and fair.
 - iii. Luke 19:10 came out of “Zaccheus”: “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”