



Little Man - Big Changes

"For the Son of Man came to seek and save that which was lost."

Luke 19:10

In the passage that precedes Luke 19, we see the story of a blind beggar. It takes place right before the story of Zacchaeus and occurs as Jesus is on his way up to Jerusalem. The beggar calls out and says "*Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.*" Jesus goes over to him and heals his blindness. This blind man, not only saw physically, but also saw spiritually. Zacchaeus was a man who had physical sight but spiritual blindness. He heard about Jesus who was approaching the city, and put himself in a position to see Jesus. Through his example, we can learn that we should also do everything we can to seek Jesus. Three movements in this story show us how to do everything we can to seek Jesus. Zacchaeus saw himself as a sinner, he was a seeker of Jesus, and he was eventually saved by Jesus.

1. Zacchaeus the Sinner

In contrast to the blind beggar who needed to be physically restored, Zacchaeus was spiritually blind, or you could say he was spiritually lost. His sin was publicly known. Everyone in the city had either been unfairly treated in his tax dealings, or they knew someone who had been defrauded by him. Although he had much wealth, he was a lost sinner and a social outcast. While our sin might not be defrauding taxes, it is no less serious. The first step in seeking Jesus is realizing that we are lost sinners in need of His salvation.

2. Zacchaeus the Seeker

Zacchaeus was so desperate to see Jesus that he shamelessly climbed up a tree like a child in the middle of a crowd. He had most likely heard about what Jesus had done for others, and wanted to know more. But the key point here is that he put himself in a position to see Jesus. This is an important thing for every believer to do - humbly put themselves in a position to see Jesus.

3. Zacchaeus the Saved

Although Jesus could have gone in any direction in the city of Jericho, he walked right up to the base of the tree and called for Zacchaeus. While Zacchaeus was looking for Jesus, it was ultimately Jesus who found him. Jesus invites himself over to Zacchaeus's house, and the result is Zacchaeus trusting Jesus as his Savior. Zacchaeus is completely transformed and ends up returning defrauded money and giving half of his wealth to the poor.

Discussion

1. How is this pattern of sinner, seeker, and saved reflected in your life? (Have 2-3 people share how they met Jesus and were saved by Him.)
2. As Christians, what obstacles can often get in the way of us seeking Jesus desperately?
3. *Jeremiah 29:13 says, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."* Can you remember a time in your life when you sought the Lord with more intensity? How can you rekindle that passion in your walk with God?
4. Why do you think Zacchaeus, despite being wealthy and powerful, felt the need to seek Jesus? How does wealth, success, or busyness often make it harder for people to realize they are spiritually lost?
5. Why is it important not just to stop sinning, but to actively pursue good, like Zacchaeus did by repaying those he defrauded?
6. How can we guard against becoming like the crowd, grumbling about people we think are "too weird" or "too far gone" for Jesus to save or use for His kingdom?
7. Jesus said He came to "seek and save the lost." What are some practical ways you can partner with Jesus in seeking and loving the lost in your community?