



Morning all – and Happy Sunday to you!

Let's worship together and enjoy God's word for today ☺

Worship:

[Oh Praise Him - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MCaVjS6i0_8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MCaVjS6i0_8)

[Jesus, Only Jesus - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HizWx7S4qzU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HizWx7S4qzU)

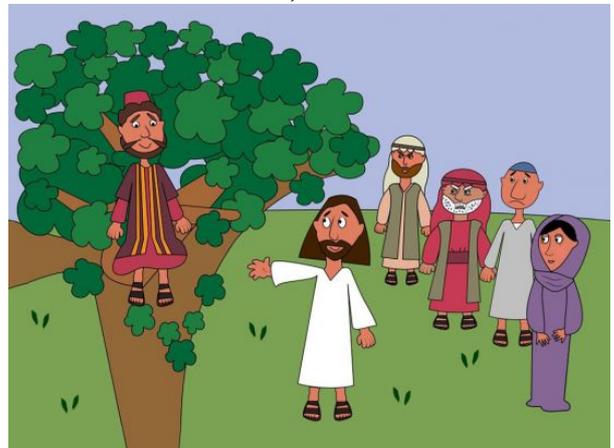
[King of my heart - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jaxEXZqpRcA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jaxEXZqpRcA)

Luke 19

1 Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. 2 Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. 3 And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him,^[a] and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." 6 So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. 7 But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."

8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."

9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; 10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."



1) Jesus was PASSING THROUGH Jericho

As we know, Jesus always walked in the Spirit, listening to His Father's voice. In this passage we see God's plans change in response to a human heart! Jesus was passing through Jericho but His plans changed entirely when He encountered Zacchaeus up the tree!

This happens in the Bible – from time to time a person or people group get God's attention and He, moves on their behalf – for example, the Syrophenician woman in Mark 7:25, the Israelites when they called out to God many times through the old testament, the woman with the issue of blood – and many more!

I want Jesus to stop at my house and encounter me and my family.

2) Zacchaeus was Chief Tax Collector and very Rich

People did not like Zacchaeus. He was seen as a bully, a thief, a miser – and he taught all the other tax collectors to be the same. People hated him and probably cursed him regularly. Maybe every time something went wrong financially they would say things like:

- This is all Zacchaeus' fault
- I hope he gets eaten by wild dogs
- The little pip-squeak – Zacchaeus stinks!

The kids probably has games like “Kick the Zacchaeus” and “Pin the tail on the Zacchaeus” – or something like that – he was extremely disliked!

3) He did not know Jesus but he had a real hunger to see Him

(v3-4) ³ And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way.

Zacchaeus knew he needed the Saviour and something happened in him that made him not only run, but climb a tree like a child, even though he was a grown man (albeit short), a **chief** tax collector and a man who probably usually stayed out of the way because of peoples' hatred of him. He overcame a lot of obstacles, physically, emotionally and socially to see Jesus – just like the woman with the issue of blood pressing through the crowds.

Matthew 9:12

Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

Zacchaeus had come to the realisation that for all his wealth, he was poor, sick, and in need of The Doctor – Jesus (not Dr Who!)

4) Jesus stops and stays at his house

Jesus says He did or said nothing unless the Father told Him to The Father changed the plan from Heaven to meet Zacchaeus and Zacchaeus received him joyfully.

Isn't this a picture of salvation?

- a) Sinner
- b) Hungry for God to change their life
- c) Makes a real effort to seek Him
- d) Jesus comes to be with him
- e) He receives Jesus joyfully
- f) He repents and gives back what he has stolen and more

Beautiful!

5) What about everyone else?

They are not so happy:

(v7) ⁷ But when they saw *it*, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.”

Out of their hurt and hatred for this chief tax collector the people want Zacchaeus to receive **justice and judgement** not **mercy**.

When we don't forgive, we can miss the plan of God for our own lives as well as other peoples' lives!

Matthew 18:21

²¹ Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?"

²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven."

Zacchaeus' problems were his nastiness, stealing, bullying, aggression and other ill behaviours which should not be excused. They are wrong.

However – maybe there are reasons behind these behaviours and actions? Maybe although inexcusable Zacchaeus' evil ways could somehow be understood? As parents we can often see our kids behaving badly as a result of some kind of upsetting experience or trauma and although the bad behaviour has to be addressed and corrected, so too should the cause be addressed and healed.

Could it be that Zacchaeus had small man syndrome? – That maybe due to his smallness of stature, he felt the need to prove himself through domination, stealing bullying? He did after all become the **Chief** Tax Collector, a small man with a huge appetite for wealth and success!

One of the hardest things in life is seeing through your own pain and poor treatment to see the bigger picture in another's life. Just like the two thieves on the crosses next to Jesus – one could only curse, mock and ridicule from his own pain, suffering and deserved punishment but the other – in exactly the same pain, suffering and punishment – was able to see through his own pain to see Jesus, the Son of God and the Saviour of the world!

6) Jesus sees behind the scenes

Jesus knows our history, our circumstances, our pain, our hearts. He knows our strengths and weaknesses, He knows our successes and our failures – He knows it all! All it took for the Heart of God to be released on Zacchaeus was the desire in his heart for God – to know Jesus – to receive forgiveness for his sin and healing for his pain!

- Love is always the answer:

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

⁴ Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Peter 4:8

And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

Maybe Zacchaeus' heart was healed by having Jesus the King take interest in Him and love him even though he was a short, bad tempered little thief

Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to be more like you in your kindness, compassion and love for everyone. Help us not to repay evil with evil but to overcome evil with good. Help us to see others through our pain and suffering and to love those who upset and even persecute us – let us see them as you see them with true and sincere hearts. Thank you, Holy Spirit, for the grace to be like Jesus! Amen

Have an amazing week folks 😊