

Bible Study Guide

Sharing Is Caring

Luke 19:1-10 New International Version (NIV)

¹ Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.

¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

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Introduce

Luke presents Jesus on a mission to seek and find lost people and restore them to God's community. As we come to chapter 19, Jesus and the large crowd traveling with him are nearing the end of their journey to Jerusalem. The sense of expectancy is growing as the crowds anticipate that the arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem will begin a revolution to liberate God's people from their oppressors.

Cultural Insight

During the time of Jesus, the Roman Empire dominated conquered peoples through a system known as "tax farming." Local tax collectors were appointed to collect a designated amount of money annually. They had the freedom to set tax rates and keep whatever they collected beyond the required quota, allowing them to grow wealthy through exploitation.



Read Luke 19:1-10

Discuss

1. **Who is Zacchaeus and what is he looking for?**
Notice Luke's description of Zacchaeus and imagine what life was like for him and the citizens of Jericho. What kind of person might Zacchaeus be in our modern society? Why do you think Zacchaeus is so eager to see Jesus?
2. **What impact does Jesus' presence have on Zacchaeus?**
Running and climbing a tree while wearing robes would bring even more shame on a man already rejected for selling out his people, yet Jesus approaches this "sinner" and "must" stay with him. How does encountering Jesus change Zacchaeus? Why does Jesus interpret this radical sharing of wealth as "salvation" coming to Zacchaeus' house?

Apply

1. **Surrender and follow Jesus.**
Zacchaeus is lost—estranged from people and far from God. Jesus seeks and saves Zacchaeus, restoring him to his people. When have you experienced Jesus seeking you? If encountering Jesus and following him is new to you, then what holds you back from surrendering your life to Jesus today? Ask Jesus to help you follow him, and share your decision with a Christian friend.
2. **Share what you have with others.**
Encountering Jesus radically transforms Zacchaeus' relationship with money. The entire town is changed as Zacchaeus shares his wealth, bringing restorative justice and advancing God's kingdom. To what extent has following Jesus impacted your relationship to money and possessions? Considering all the needs locally and globally, what concrete steps can you take to respond to Jesus by sharing what you own?

Conclude

Pray with each other.

For tips on leading a small group online, [watch this!](#)