

Blessed Are Those Who Seek the Lord

Change Your View

Sunday, August 8, 2021

Luke 19: 1-10 NIV

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ²A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. ⁵When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” ⁶So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. ⁷All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.” ⁸But 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.”

⁹Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

1. Jesus Searches Out

Ezekiel 34:11 I myself will search for my sheep and look after them.

Matthew 18:12 If a man owns 100 sheep and 1 wanders off, will he not leave the 99 and go look for the 1 that wandered off?

2. Jesus Responds to the Seeker

Isaiah 55: 6-7 Seek the Lord while He made be found. Call on Him when He is near.

Psalms 27:8 My heart says seek His face! Your face Lord I will seek.

3. Jesus Saves

Romans 10: 12-13 The same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on His name. Everyone who calls on His name will be saved.

John 3: 16-17 God did not send His Son to condemn the world but to save the world through Him.

Conclusion: Zacchaeus went to great lengths to see Jesus. His earnest seeking to encounter Christ offered him far greater riches than all his earthly wealth acquired. May we all earnestly seek after Christ and make knowing Him our greatest treasure. May we change our view when it's blocked so we always see Him clearly, in Truth and Love.

LIFE GROUP LESSON

Change Your View

Week of August 8 – August 14, 2021

Ice Breaker: Have you ever taken drastic measures to change your view of Jesus? How you saw Him? What did you do?

Read Luke 19: 1-10.

1. Why did Jesus go through Jericho? (vs. 1-2)
2. Who was Zacchaeus?
3. How would the Jewish community view Zacchaeus? Why?
4. What kinds of struggles would Zacchaeus have likely endured for his life's choices?
5. Why would Jesus meet with him? What did Jesus see and know?
6. What was the problem for Zacchaeus in being able to see Jesus?
7. What measures did he take to ensure he could see Jesus fully? (v4)
8. Do you think that might have involved discomfort, pain, risk?
9. When we seek after Jesus and knowing Him, might it involve discomfort, pain and risk in our lives? How so?
10. We're told Jesus was passing through Jericho. What did Jesus do in response to Zacchaeus' tree climbing? (v.5)
11. Do you think Jesus was just passing through or do you believe He had a divine appointment with Zacchaeus that day?
12. Do you think Christ sets divine appointments for you to encounter Him? Are you willing to get uncomfortable to seek Him more?
13. How did Zacchaeus respond? (vs. 6, 8-10)
14. How did the people respond to Jesus wanting to dine with Zacchaeus?
15. Who did Jesus come for? (v.10) Is it for us to judge who He saves?
16. Read Ezekiel 34:11 and Matthew 18:12. What do you learn about God's heart for the lost and wandering?
17. Read Isaiah 55: 6-7. What are we told to do? What might Zacchaeus have missed had he not been willing to change his view? What might we miss if we fail to earnestly seek the Lord now?
18. Read Romans 10: 12-13 and John 3:16-17. What is God's purpose? Is there anyone not worthy of salvation? Should we pray without ceasing for the lost to be found in Christ?

Point to ponder: Zacchaeus was considered among the worst with his people. They would not associate with him but Jesus would. Jesus saw his heart could be redeemed. He came to seek and save the lost. Let us rejoice in our Lord who searches out and saves!