

## **Doorway to Transformation 2**

### **Bible Study on Luke 19:1-10**

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

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

<sup>7</sup> All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a ‘sinner.’”

<sup>8</sup> 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.”

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

1. What are some observations you have about this text? Is there anything that surprises you?
  
2. Zacchaeus is described as a chief tax collector, which probably means that he was seen as a betrayer and “sell-out” to his own people. How would you have reacted if you were part of the crowd and you saw this encounter with Jesus take place?
  
3. Zacchaeus, though he was an outsider in the community, ran ahead and climbed a tree like a child. What does this tell us about Zacchaeus up to this point in his life?
  
4. Jesus makes an incredible gesture of friendship by offering to stay at Zacchaeus’ house, as if to say, “I want to be your friend!” Nothing else is reported about Jesus’ words to Zacchaeus. Why is this significant?

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5. How would you have felt if you were Zacchaeus and this gesture was made to you?
  
6. Verse 8 shows us a different picture of Zacchaeus after having met Jesus. How has Zacchaeus changed and why has he changed?
  
7. In the Mosaic law, the general tithe (standard for giving) was 10% (Gen 14, 28, Lev. 27, 1 Sam 8, Luke 11:42), and there were laws about how to repay those who have been cheated (Ex 22, Lev. 6). Zacchaeus responds by offering 50% to the poor, and giving back four times as much to the people who he has cheated (which is the highest repayment one is to give in the Mosaic Law). Why do you think Zacchaeus responded this way after Jesus comes into his home?
  
8. In verse 9, Jesus remarks "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham." What does this story reveal about salvation (being saved from spiritual death into spiritual life)?
  
9. In what ways can you relate to Zacchaeus before he meets Jesus? After?
  
10. On Sunday, it was mentioned that the foundation to giving well, is receiving well. How does Zacchaeus receive well in this story? How could Zacchaeus have NOT received well in this passage?
  
11. Have you received well from Jesus? If not, why has it been difficult to receive from Jesus?

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12. Has your receiving affected your giving? How so?

13. Fill in your name below, and meditate on the unconditional grace of God. Before ANYTHING, remember to receive, in order that your heart may grow into a generous spirit.

“ \_\_\_\_\_, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today!”

No strings attached...