

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 1313

April 5, 2020

Luke 19:2-3, “²And, behold, [there was] a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. ³And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.”

In Luke 19 Jesus is passing through Jericho. There was a man there named Zacchaeus who wanted to see Jesus. He either knew of Jesus or saw the great crowd gathering to see Jesus. Zacchaeus was a tax collector and he was chief among them.

Perhaps he was in Jericho on business or maybe even had an office there. This could have been his home. Whatever the reason, he happened to be in Jericho at the same time Jesus was. He wanted to see Jesus, but there were so many people that he could not. There was a crowd and we are told that Zacchaeus was little of stature, meaning that he was short. There are numerous lessons we can learn from this event.

1. **It was simply not enough to be where Jesus was.** Even though Zacchaeus was in the same town where Jesus was at the time, that was not close enough. He had to go out and get closer to Jesus. So

many are where “Jesus is.” We live where the word of God is abundantly available, there are numerous congregations to worship with, and there are ample opportunities to serve the LORD. Yet, just to be in the “area” of such is not enough. We must get closer by obeying and serving the LORD.

2. **Zacchaeus was later to the gathering.** Since he was behind the crowd, we can infer that the others arrived before him. Perhaps you are late in your arrival to the LORD. You might be much later in life and well along in years. Never let this prevent you from seeking the LORD. As long as you have life and are still in your right mind, you can seek and obey the LORD.

3. **Zacchaeus could have just given up.** Zacchaeus was presented with some resistance. There was a crowd and he could not see Jesus. He could have simply left never seeing Jesus. Many will run into resistance in seeking out and following the LORD. This resistance can come in the form of family, work, or material things. We must not give up when we run into resistance, but continue to work to serve the LORD.

4. **He did something else to see Jesus.** It was not easy for him to see Jesus due to the crowd and his height. Instead of giving up, he put forth extra effort to see Jesus. Luke 19:3, “*And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that [way].*” Instead of just staying behind the crowd, he did two things of action. He ran and climbed. This was perhaps not only physically challenging, but perhaps somewhat embarrassing as well. Knowing the attire of the day, Zacchaeus most likely had on a robe and sandals. This would have contributed to the difficulty of climbing.

Zacchaeus was probably not a young man. To have risen to the position of chief among the tax collectors would probably have taken years or decades. Due to his attire, possibly not being young at all, and certainly being short, climbing would have been very difficult. Yet, he made the effort.

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Sunday 9 AM & 6 PM — Wednesday 6 PM



—Continue to remember **Alice Thrasher, Steve Seaton, Brad Terry, Enola Zigler, Shirley Parson, and Shirley Edwards.** Remember **Archie & Judy Manning.** Archie is very sick with cancer.

—During the Covid-19 virus concerns, we are only having one service on Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. central. Sunday and Wednesday evening services will be online only on YouTube at 6:00 p.m. We will change back to our regular schedule as quickly as possible.

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5. Zacchaeus received more than he first wanted. The purpose of Zacchaeus was simply to see who Jesus was. When Jesus came to the place, we are told in Luke 19:5, *“And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.”* Not only was Zacchaeus successful in seeing Jesus, he received so much more.

Jesus looked up and saw him. How wonderful it would have been to have Jesus stop and look directly at you. He only wanted to see Jesus, but Jesus saw him.

Jesus spoke to him and called him by name. What an honor to hear the precious voice of Jesus, but also to have him call you by name. To be addressed by name makes the encounter so much more warm and personal.

Jesus then told Zacchaeus that today he must abide at his house. Not only did Zacchaeus get to see Jesus, but he was going to get to spend good quality time with Jesus. They would have eaten, talked, and perhaps Jesus even stayed the night there from his wording that he must “abide” at his house.

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| Sunday, March 29, 2020 | | |
| Classes | -- | --- |
| Preaching | 6 | II Kings 5:1-14 |
| Contribution | \$495.00 | |
| Evening | online | Ezra 9:1-15 |
| Wednesday, April 1, 2020 | | |
| Classes | online | Isaiah 23:1-18 |

Bible Quiz

The LORD stretched out His hand over the sea
and shook what?

Last Week’s Answer— River of Ahava (Ezra 8:31)

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If we put forth the effort to see Jesus, we too will have so much more than we can ever imagine. We have all the blessings of being in the LORD in this life, and after this life, we too will also abide with Jesus. Then it will be eternally in Heaven.

—Marty Edwards❖

—God’s Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)