

How does God See You

Luke 19:1-10



Zaccheus Luke 19:1-10

19 *Jesus* entered Jericho and was passing through. ² And [a]there was a man called by the name of Zaccheus; he was a chief tax collector and he was rich. ³ *Zaccheus* was trying to see who Jesus was, and he was unable due to the crowd, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran on ahead and climbed up a [b]sycamore tree in order to see Him, because He was about to pass through that way. ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, “Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” ⁶ And he hurried and came down, and received Him [c]joyfully. ⁷ When *the people saw this*, they all *began* to complain, saying, “He has gone in [d]to be the guest of a man who is a sinner!” ⁸ But Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I am giving to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone, I am giving back four times as much.” ⁹ And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

This was his only chance

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“Jesus was approaching Jericho; now, having entered the city, he is passing through it on His way to Jerusalem. The diving purpose He serves thus moves more and more into the forefront, such that Jesus can even assert that sharing a meal with Zaccheus is a divine necessity.” *The Gospel of Luke*, p.666



Jesus likes to reward the seekers.

³ *Zaccheus* was trying to see who Jesus was, and he was unable due to the crowd, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran on ahead and climbed up a [\[b\]](#)sycamore tree in order to see Him, because He was about to pass through that *way*. ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, “Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.

Other examples:

Hemorrhaging woman, crawls through crowd to touch Jesus clothes. Mark 5.

Paralyzed Man destroys ceiling. Luke 5.

Roman Centurion, servant suffering back at home. Matthew 8.

⁷ “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Matthew 7.

Today, Now

⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, “Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” Luke 19:5

“In this respect, Jesus use fo the term “today” is highly suggestive, since elsewhere in Luke’s narrative it is used to communicate the immediacy of salvation.” -The Gospel of Luke. Joel b. Green.

I pray we all have the urgency of Zaccheus

Others aren't going to like it

⁷ When *the people* saw *this*, they all *began* to complain, saying, “He has gone in [\[d\]](#) to be the guest of a man who is a sinner!” Luke 19:7

“The response of grumbling in light of Jesus’ table companions is nothing new in the Third Gospel, such a reaction demonstrates how Jesus’ mission runs counter to expected social norms... In spite of Jesus’ repeated attempts throughout the journey to address disciples and Pharisees, and indeed all who would listen, on issues of status and membership among God’s people, his message seems thus far to have fallen universally on deaf ears.” *The Gospel of Luke*. Joel B. Green.

The Look

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Lynn Giovannelli.

Short Poem on Jesus first public Miracle, water into wine.

“The conscious Water looked at its creator, and blushed.

Combination of the Look and Zaccheus seeking

“By far the most impressive parallels are between the accounts of the rich ruler (18:18-30) and of Zaccheus. Both are “rulers. According to his self evaluation, the first keeps the commandments, while Zaccheus is, according to popular opinion, a “sinner.” The ruler is counseled to sell all he has and give to the poor; Zacchaeus sells half of his possessions and gives the proceeds to the poor. Both are wealthy.”
The Gospel of Luke, Joel B. Green.

Luke 18:18-27

The Rich Young Ruler

¹⁸ A ruler questioned Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁹ But Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me [\[a\]](#)good? No one is [\[b\]](#)good except God alone. ²⁰ You know the commandments, ‘DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, DO NOT MURDER, DO NOT STEAL, DO NOT GIVE FALSE TESTIMONY, HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER.’” ²¹ And he said, “All these things I have kept since *my* youth.” ²² Now when Jesus heard *this*, He said to him, “One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute *the money* to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” ²³ But when he had heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely wealthy. ²⁴ And Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ For it is easier for a camel to [\[c\]](#)go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁶ Those who heard *Him* said, “And so who can be saved?” ²⁷ But He said, “The things that are impossible with people are possible with God.”

What was the difference?

Zacchaeus vs. the Rich Young Ruler?! They were both people of wealth, status and power.

How they saw themselves and their hearts posture.

This is a warning. If you've ever had the thought, yea but i'm a good person, never cheated or stole, or but I donate, volunteer on the PTA, have never hit my spouse, got a great retirement portfolio... The greater you are, the less room you have for God in your heart because you're taking up most of the space.

Is your heart in a place that God can work with? Maybe it's time to open the fridge and help yourself to a harty slice of humble pie?

This is Maggie



He sees you. All of you.

He sees all of us. Every bit of us. He knows the parts of us we aren't familiar with at all. What blows my mind is how powerful His love is for us despite all of our sin and baggage. But some of us still want to say no, because we're ashamed. Or we want to hide things from him. As if we could hide anything from him. It's like a baby who's getting their diaper changed. No don't look at me, I've soiled myself, threw up all over myself and just threw a temper tantrum. The parent is like, yea I know. I expected that, you're a baby. I change your diaper whether your sleeping or awake, I know you. And then we think we're so clever to hide things, as if we could hide from God. It's like a toddler that only closes their eyes during hide and seek while they are standing in the middle of the room. Look at the difference between when we see ourselves or others verses when He sees us.

When my sin, character, things that are hidden and things that I choose to reveal, are exposed, I react poorly. Lets us the example of Jesus and the woman at the well. Imagine sitting in book club and Karen points out that you're in a self inflicted adulterous relationship, how would your reaction be. Or like Jesus and Zaccheus, if you were exposed for an amateur Ponzi scheme where you successfully swindled people out of their retirement, how would your reaction be. It certainly wouldn't be zacchaaus or the woman at the wells reaction. So what did Jesus do differently. Mark used Romans chapter 6 to ties this back in.

Jesus Wants You

“We discover at the outset that Zacchaeus is on a quest to see who Jesus is, only to learn in the end that, in accordance with his divine mission, Jesus has been on a quest for Zacchaeus, to bring him to salvation.” p.667

But what about the affluent and those in places of stature?

“Zacchaeus is characterized in four ways, a Jew, a ruler, a toll collector and wealthy.”

Rich, poor, hated, loved, accepted, rejected. Jesus is on a quest for you.

With Maggie. I cried not because she was misunderstood and mistreated, what broke my heart is that she didn't see herself the way I saw her. She's believing lies instead of believing me. And then I realized how often we do that to God. When you tell yourself lies or feed yourself personal discouragement, you're speaking out against one of God's children, yourself! And throwing yourself under the bus and attacking one of God's children when you do. This means we are breaking God's heart every time we are cruel to ourselves and don't believe what He says about us in scripture. We are going directly against His commandment to love one another.



Pray

