

CALVARY CHAPEL OF PHILADELPHIA

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
3RD-5TH GRADE
TEACHER'S PACKET

SUNDAY MORNING

Study 24

Zacchaeus



Zacchaeus

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective To teach that those who are wealthy can enter into God's kingdom too, and genuine repentance is reflected by a person's actions.

Key Verses

Luke 19:1-10—Main Teaching Passage

Luke 6:43-45

Matthew 3:8

Hebrews 11:6

2 Corinthians 5:17

Memory Verse - Luke 19:10

"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Matthew 6:24.

Ask for a volunteer and give them a list of simple instructions to follow (get something off a shelf, give you a high five, walk from one side of the room to the other, etc.) The catch is that they have to do all of those things on their knees. Before they start, have the rest of the class gather around that student and just walk around and get in the way. After a while, stop and have everyone sit down.

That's a little bit what life may have been like for the man we're going to learn about today, but he didn't let that stop him from getting to see Jesus.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem for the last time. As He traveled, He entered and passed through the city of Jericho. A man named Zacchaeus lived there. He was a chief tax collector and very rich. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but couldn't see over the crowd because he was too short. So he ran ahead of the crowd and climbed into a tree so that when Jesus passed by that way, Zacchaeus would be able to see Him.

When Jesus came to the place where Zacchaeus was waiting, Jesus stopped, looked up, and saw him in the tree. Jesus said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry up and come down. I must stay at your house today!" Zacchaeus immediately came down and received Jesus into his home with gladness. But when the crowd saw this, they complained about it, stating that Jesus had gone to be the guest of a great sinner.

Zacchaeus spoke with Jesus and told Him that he would give half of everything he owned to the poor, and he would repay with four times as much anyone he had cheated or stolen from. Jesus replied, "Salvation has come to this house today! He also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and save that which was lost."

The interpretation/
exegesis of the passage.
What does this passage
mean? How does this
passage apply to my
life?

LOOK

Last week, we saw a rich young man interact with Jesus, hoping to find eternal life. But instead of finding life and following Jesus, he held onto his riches and was full of sadness. Jesus had expressed that it was very difficult for anyone who is wealthy to enter into God's kingdom, "but with God all things are possible." Today, we see a contrasting example of another rich man. This man had several obstacles in his way that might hinder someone from coming to Jesus. He was a chief tax collector, so nobody liked him, and he was also really short! But Zacchaeus (whose name means "pure" or "innocent") persevered, and in doing so, got way more than just a glimpse of Jesus.

Have you ever invited yourself over to someone else's house? That's what Jesus did! And Zacchaeus couldn't have been more glad! This was more than he could have ever hoped or even dreamed. Unfortunately, there will always be those who complain about who Jesus welcomes into His kingdom, but all that matters is in the end is what God says about us. What about you? Are there people you complain about at church? God took note of their complaints for us to read about today. We should be happy for anyone and everyone to become a part of God's family. God so loved the whole world that He sent His Son (John 3:16)!

LOOK (Continued)

See how quickly the change comes over Zacchaeus! He is a new creation is Christ Jesus; old things have passed away (2 Corinthians 5:17). How do we know? Because his first order of business is to give away half his money to the poor and making things right with people he had cheated. Zacchaeus was so excited to show Jesus what he is doing, not to brag, but to worship. Zacchaeus is doing what the rich young man could not, and Jesus didn't even have to ask him to do it. The Bible says that God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7), and that's what's happening.

What we see in Zacchaeus is repentance. Do you know what the word "repent" means? It means to turn away from sin and to God. It is a changed life. The Bible speaks of the things we do as fruit. A bad tree produces bad fruit and a good tree produces good fruit. A bad, unchanged heart does what is bad, and a new, changed heart does what is good. Only God can change person's heart. The crowd had rightly said that Zacchaeus was a sinner. He *was* lost, but now he is found and saved. He was a taker, and now he's a giver. He was self-focused, now he is Jesus- and others-focused.

What about you? Is there anything in your life that you need to repent of? Is there anything in your heart that you need God's help to change? The amazing thing about repentance is that it's not just about what we're turning away from, but Whom we're turning to. A relationship with God is the most amazing privilege and gift we can know, but we can't move towards Him unless we turn away from sin, like we learned last week. No one can serve two masters. Is there anything getting in your way when it comes to seeing Jesus? He wants to come to your house and help you with your heart. Will you let Him?

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class, memorize Luke 19:10.

Pray: Jesus, thank You for coming to seek and save the lost. Show me anything in my heart that needs to change, and help me to be kind and loving to others.

Family Question: What does "repent" mean, and what did repentance look like for Zacchaeus?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Luke 19:1-10 by David Guzik

A. Jesus and Zacchaeus

1. ([Luke 19:1-4](#)) Zacchaeus climbs a tree and risks ridicule to see Jesus.

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. Now behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way.

a. **Jesus entered and passed through Jericho:** Jericho was an ancient and important city, and as Jesus passed through the city on His way to Jerusalem, it seems that the reason was to meet with this **man named Zacchaeus**.

i. Jericho was a prosperous city. “It had a great palm forest and world-famous balsam groves which perfumed the air for miles around. Its gardens of roses were known far and wide. Men called it ‘The City of Palms.’ Josephus called it ‘a divine region,’ ‘the fattest in Palestine.’ The Romans carried its dates and balsam to world-wide trade and fame.” (Barclay)

b. **Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector:** Zacchaeus was not only a tax collector, but a **chief tax collector** — and the Jews hated men like him. This was not only due to their natural dislike of taxes, but more so because of the practice known as tax farming, the collector made his profit on whatever *extra* he could get away with charging his victims. A tax collector was highly motivated to make the taxes as high as possible.

i. When the tax collectors came to John the Baptist, asking how they could get right with God, he told them *collect no more than what is appointed for you* ([Luke 3:13](#)). If you were a tax collector and you were rich, you were a rogue.

ii. Morris on **chief tax collector**: “The title is not found anywhere else, so its precise significance is not known, but it seems to point to the head of the local taxation department.”

iii. The name **Zacchaeus** means “pure one.” This man was anything but pure — until he received Jesus. “He should by his name have been a puritan (in the best sense), but he was an arch-publican, a public sinner, not simple, but subtle, a griping extortioner, a rich but wretched sycophant.” (Trapp)

c. **He sought to see who Jesus was:** Zacchaeus wanted to set his eyes on Jesus; he *sought after Him*. Perhaps Zacchaeus had heard that Jesus accepted people like him; he longed to see this remarkable Man Jesus for himself.

d. **He was of short stature:** His natural state gave him a disadvantage in seeking after Jesus. It also probably affected his personality; small in size, we can imagine how Zacchaeus was mocked and hated by others — and how he returned the favor by increasing the taxes on his victims.

i. If Zacchaeus had a small heart, he would have given up and not worked to see Jesus. “But Zacchaeus had had a great will to grow rich, and he had found there a way to *that*. And now he had a great will to see Jesus, and he was not the sort of person to be stopped.” (Morrison)

e. **He ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him:** Because Zacchaeus sought Jesus so intensely, he didn't mind doing something that many thought was beneath the dignity of a grown, wealthy man — he climbed up **a sycamore tree**.

i. He climbed the tree like a little boy, and without knowing fulfilled Jesus' word that unless we become like children we will not see the kingdom of God ([Matthew 18:3](#)).

ii. "A traveller describes the tree as being like 'the English oak, and its shade is most pleasing... It is very easy to climb.'" (Barclay)

iii. "I wish there were more of us who did not mind being laughed at if only what we did helped us to see Jesus." (Maclaren)

2. ([Luke 19:5-6](#)) Jesus invites Himself to Zacchaeus' house.

And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.

a. **He looked up and saw him:** Because Zacchaeus worked hard and risked embarrassment to see Jesus, *Jesus saw him* and did not pass him by. In the best sense, Zacchaeus stood out to Jesus, and Jesus connected with Him.

b. **Zacchaeus, make haste:** Jesus started by calling **Zacchaeus** by name. Jesus knew the importance of a person's name. This may have been the first time Zacchaeus heard someone besides his mother say his name in a kind way.

i. Saying his name made all the difference; Jesus told **Zacchaeus**, "I know you, and I lay some claim upon you."

ii. Jesus knew the importance of a name. He said that He calls His sheep by name: *To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out* ([John 10:3](#)). In Revelation, we are promised a new name that only God and we know. When we get to heaven, there will be someone there who knows our name.

c. **Make haste and come down:** Jesus told Zacchaeus to *hurry* and to **come down**. If He did not hurry the opportunity might be lost; if he did not lower himself he would never meet Jesus.

i. This says to each, "Come down from your high place; Jesus would never have eaten with Zacchaeus if he stayed in the sycamore tree."

d. **Today I must stay at your house:** Jesus didn't merely want to preach to Zacchaeus and convert him in a spiritual or religious sense. Jesus wanted to have *real relationship* with Zacchaeus, beginning with a meal and time spent together.

i. Jesus invited Himself to spend time with Zacchaeus, the hated outcast. The early church was despised for its acceptance of outcasts ([1 Corinthians 1:26-31](#)), but the early Christians regarded this as something glorious, not shameful.

e. **And received Him:** Jesus would only come into the house of Zacchaeus and into his life *if invited*, *if received*. He received Jesus first, and then started a relationship with Him.

i. "Christ will not force himself into any man's house, and sit there against the man's will. That would not be the action of a guest, but of an unwelcome intruder." (Spurgeon)

ii. Perhaps Zacchaeus had a lot of questions; but he didn't ask them from the sycamore tree. He came down from the tree, met Jesus, and then asked Him whatever he wanted to.

f. **And received Him joyfully:** Zacchaeus was *happy* to receive Jesus. Jesus called Zacchaeus to Himself, and it was to *Jesus* that he came, and happily so. Zacchaeus received **Him** — that is, Jesus Himself. Not primarily to a creed or a doctrine, not to a theory, and not to a ceremony — but to Jesus.

i. Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, and would be received into the city with joy, with what is called *the triumphal entry*. Here, before that, He had a different entry into the heart of just *one man*. This entrance, this reception seemed to have more lasting results.

ii. Jesus is joyful to receive sinners, and they are joyful to be saved. We know that the joy of Jesus is greater, because it is more blessed to give than to receive.

iii. Zacchaeus is a model to everyone of how to receive Jesus:

- Receive Jesus by seeking after Him with real effort.
- Receive Jesus by humbling yourself.
- Receive Jesus no matter how sinful or hated you are.
- Receive Jesus as He invites you by name.
- Receive Jesus without delay.
- Receive Jesus by coming down to Him.
- Receive Jesus Himself.
- Receive Jesus into your *life*, your *home*.
- Receive Jesus joyfully.
- Receive Jesus despite what other say.
- Receive Jesus with repentance and restitution.

3. ([Luke 19:7-10](#)) Zacchaeus renounces his sin and Jesus proclaims his salvation.

But when they saw *it*, they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.” Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

a. **He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner:** The people (**they all**, not only the religious leaders) thought Jesus had gone too far by associating with a man as bad as Zacchaeus — so they protested.

i. “Jesus Christ did not teach Zacchaeus by going to his house that character was of no consequence; on the contrary, Zacchaeus perceived at once that character was of the greatest consequence, and so he stood forth, and said ‘Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.’” (Spurgeon)

b. **Look, Lord... I restore fourfold:** In receiving Jesus and spending just a little time with Him, Zacchaeus knew he had to repent and make restitution. First he just sought after Jesus; but in seeking Jesus he also came to seek repentance.

i. Zacchaeus cheerfully offered to do as much or even more than the law demanded. The promise to make restitution to **anyone** he had wronged was remarkable; “Considering the way he had made his money it was unlikely that this would be a short list.” (Morris)

ii. *Can a life change this quickly?* Yes. Not every habit in the life of Zacchaeus changed immediately, but the heart changed and there was some evidence of life-change immediately.

c. **Today salvation has come to this house:** Jesus knew that the repentant Zacchaeus was saved, rescued from the bondage, power, guilt, and penalty of his sin. The word was no longer **sinner** but **salvation**, and Jesus told everyone.

- i. Jesus commanded the rich young ruler to give away everything ([Luke 18:18-23](#)); but for Zacchaeus it was enough to make restitution to those he had wronged. Jesus knew Zacchaeus by name and knew exactly what *he* must do to repent and be right with God and man.
- ii. In [Luke 18:24-27](#), Jesus said that it was impossible with man for the rich to enter into heaven; but it is possible with God. This is a fulfillment of that promise. Zacchaeus became a joyful giver, thus showing God's *impossible* work in him, but the young ruler went away sorry, holding on to his riches.
- d. **Because he also is a son of Abraham:** Since Zacchaeus was so hated by his fellow Jews, they probably often said that he wasn't a "real" Jew. Jesus wanted everyone to know that Zacchaeus really was a **son of Abraham**, both by genetics and by faith — because he really, joyfully received Jesus.
- i. The priests of Jericho (it was a Levitical city) had probably often condemned Zacchaeus and called on him to give to the poor. But after meeting Jesus, such a sacrifice was done joyfully. Love for Jesus can motivate us for greater things than legalism, guilt, or manipulation can ever do.
- e. **The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost:** Jesus explained why He sought and extended friendship to a notorious sinner like Zacchaeus. Jesus came precisely to save people like Zacchaeus.
- i. Zacchaeus *really* believed on Jesus. A true **son of Abraham** was not only descended from Abraham genetically, but also had the *faith* in God Abraham had.
- ii. Even though Zacchaeus sought Jesus, it turns out that *he* was the one who **was lost**, and *Jesus sought him (has come to seek)*. Zacchaeus was lost to his parents; lost to the religious, lost to his community, lost to whatever friends he might have had — yet in a sense, not lost to God. "As the story of his conversion unfolds, his seeking Jesus ([Luke 19:3](#)) turned out to be the result of Jesus' first seeking him ([Luke 19:10](#))." (Pate)
- iii. The entire account with Zacchaeus gives us a remarkable who, what, where, when, why, and how of receiving Jesus.
- *Who* Jesus wants to receive Him: those lost.
 - *What* Jesus wants with those who receive Him: relationship.
 - *Where* Jesus wants to go: down to Him.
 - *When* Jesus wants you to receive Him: immediately, quickly.
 - *Why* Jesus wants you to receive Him: to be with Him, to connect with Him in life.
 - *How* Jesus wants you to receive Him: joyfully.