

People who are Searching for God

“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 being a short man he could not, because of 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 what was lost.” Luke 19:1-10 (NIV)

Small Group & Personal Reflection Questions:

1. Read Luke 19:1-10. Why do you think a rich, influential Roman would be interested in “catching a glimpse” of this man Jesus? Why do so few people seem to have that same hunger today?
2. What do you think Zacchaeus felt when Jesus “invited himself” to come to his home that day? Why do you think Jesus had their first meeting in his “home” instead of the temple or some other religious institution?
3. Why were the crowds displeased (vs. 7)? Where do you see that same attitude in our culture today when it comes to reaching out to those who are “sinners”?
4. Zacchaeus demonstrated his desire to follow Jesus by giving back most all of his wealth that he had gained over the years. What is the connection between that specific action and his personal faith? Do you see any relevance to that in our lives?
5. Jesus declares that he “came to seek and to save those who are lost.” How does that affect how we should see others outside the church knowing that Jesus feels this way about them? Why do we so often find ourselves being judgmental of those who are lost rather than “seeking to save them”?