



## Lesson 49 – Zacchaeus

Based on Luke 19:1-10.

- 1) Where does our lesson begin today?

**Luke 19:1** And Jesus entered and passed through \_\_\_\_\_.



A few miles from the Jordan, on the western edge of the valley that here spread out into a plain, the city lay in the midst of tropic verdure and luxuriance of beauty. With its palm trees and rich gardens watered by living springs, it gleamed like an emerald in the setting of limestone hills and desolate ravines that interposed between Jerusalem and the city of the plain.

Many caravans on their way to the feast passed through Jericho. Their arrival was always a festive season, but now a deeper interest stirred the people. It was known that the Galilean Rabbi who had so lately brought Lazarus to life was in the throng; and though whispers were rife as to the plottings of the priests, the multitudes were eager to do Him homage.

- 2) Who came out to see the Galilean Rabbi?

**Luke 19:2** And, behold, there was a man named \_\_\_\_\_, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.

Zacchaeus was a Jew and detested by his countrymen. His rank and wealth were the reward of a calling they abhorred, and which was regarded as another name for injustice and extortion. Yet the wealthy customs officer was not altogether the hardened man of the world that he seemed. Beneath the appearance of worldliness and pride was a heart susceptible to divine influences.

- 3) What had Zacchaeus heard previously from John the Baptist?

**Luke 3:13** And he said unto them, \_\_\_\_\_ no more than that which is appointed you.

Only a few miles from Jericho, John the Baptist had preached at the Jordan, and Zacchaeus had heard of the call to repentance. The instruction to the publicans, though outwardly disregarded, had impressed his mind. He knew the Scriptures and was convicted that his practice was wrong. Now, hearing the words reported to have come from the Great Teacher, he felt that he was a sinner in the sight of God. Yet what he had heard of Jesus kindled hope in his heart. Repentance, reformation of life, was possible, even to him; was not one of the new Teacher's most trusted disciples a publican? Zacchaeus began at once to follow the conviction that had taken hold upon him, and to make restitution to those whom he had wronged.

- 4) What did he do when Jesus was nearby?

**Luke 19:3-4** And he sought to see \_\_\_\_\_ who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. And he ran before, and climbed up into a \_\_\_\_\_ tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.



The streets were crowded, and Zacchaeus, who was small of stature, could see nothing over the heads of the people. None would give way for him; so, running a little in advance of the multitude, to where a wide-branching fig tree hung over the way, the rich tax collector climbed to a seat among the boughs, whence he could survey the procession as it passed below. The crowd comes near, it is going by, and Zacchaeus scans with eager eyes to discern the one figure he longs to see.

5) Did Jesus notice him?

**Luke 19:5** And when Jesus came to the place, he \_\_\_\_\_, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.

Above the clamor of priests and rabbis and the shouts of welcome from the multitude, that unuttered desire of the chief publican spoke to the heart of Jesus. Suddenly, just beneath the fig tree, a group halts, the company before and behind come to a standstill, and One looks upward whose glance seems to read the soul. Almost doubting his senses, the man in the tree hears the words of Christ.

6) Did he take Him to his house?

**Luke 19:6** And he made haste, and came down, and received him \_\_\_\_\_.

7) What did the wondering crowd think about what they saw and heard?

**Luke 19:7** And when they saw it, they all \_\_\_\_\_, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

The multitude give way, and Zacchaeus, walking as in a dream, leads the way toward his own home. But the rabbis look on with scowling faces, and murmur in discontent and scorn.

8) What did Zacchaeus tell Jesus with a heart filled with joy?

**Luke 19:8** And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him \_\_\_\_\_.

Zacchaeus had been overwhelmed, amazed, and silenced at the love and condescension of Christ in stooping to him, so unworthy. Now love and loyalty to his new-found Master unseal his lips. He will make public his confession and his repentance.

9) Was Jesus pleased with him?

**Luke 19:9-10** And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ that which was lost.

10) For who's benefit did Jesus say this?

11) What previous lesson flashed through the minds of the Disciples?

a) **Mark 10:24-26** (Speaking of the Rich Young Ruler) And the disciples were \_\_\_\_\_ at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a \_\_\_\_\_ to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they were astonished out of measure, saying among \_\_\_\_\_, Who then can be saved?



- b) **Luke 18:27** And he said, The things which are impossible with men are \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

Before Zacchaeus had looked upon the face of Christ, he had begun the work that made him manifest as a true penitent. Before being accused by man, he had confessed his sin. He had yielded to the conviction of the Holy Spirit, and had begun to carry out the teaching of the words written for ancient Israel as well as for ourselves.

12) How were the Children of Israel to treat one another?

**Leviticus 25:35-37** And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in decay with thee; then thou shalt \_\_\_\_\_ him: yea, though he be a stranger, or a sojourner; that he may live with thee. Take thou no \_\_\_\_\_ of him, or increase: but fear thy God; that thy brother may live with thee. Thou shalt not give him thy money upon usury, nor lend him thy \_\_\_\_\_ for increase.

**Leviticus 25:17** Ye \_\_\_\_\_ therefore \_\_\_\_\_ one another; but thou shalt fear thy God: for I am the LORD your God.

Among the publicans there was a confederacy, so that they could oppress the people, and sustain one another in their fraudulent practices. In their extortion they were but carrying out what had become an almost universal custom. Even the priests and rabbis who despised them were guilty of enriching themselves by dishonest practices under cover of their sacred calling. But no sooner did Zacchaeus yield to the influence of the Holy Spirit than he cast aside every practice contrary to integrity.

No repentance is genuine that does not work reformation. The righteousness of Christ is not a cloak to cover unconfessed and unforsaken sin; it is a principle of life that transforms the character and controls the conduct. Holiness is wholeness for God; it is the entire surrender of heart and life to the indwelling of the principles of heaven.

13) What odd thing did Zechariah say about the end times?

**Zechariah 14:20-21** In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, \_\_\_\_\_ UNTO THE \_\_\_\_\_; and the pots in the LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yea, every \_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts.

The Christian in his business life is to represent to the world the manner in which our Lord would conduct business enterprises. In every transaction he is to make it manifest that God is his teacher.

14) What promise did God give to humanity through Ezekiel?

**Ezekiel 33:15-16** If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die. \_\_\_\_\_ of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely \_\_\_\_\_.



Those who profess to be followers of Christ, and who deal in an unrighteous manner, are bearing false witness against the character of a holy, just, and merciful God. Every converted soul will, like Zacchaeus, signalize the entrance of Christ into his heart by an abandonment of the unrighteous practices that have marked his life.

15) What did Jesus tell Zacchaeus?

**Luke 19:9** And Jesus said unto him, This day is \_\_\_\_\_ come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

Not only was Zacchaeus himself blessed, but all his household with him. Christ went to his home to give him lessons of truth, and to instruct his household in the things of the kingdom. They had been shut out from the synagogues by the contempt of rabbis and worshipers; but now, the most favored household in all Jericho, they gathered in their own home about the divine Teacher, and heard for themselves the words of life.

16) What did Paul tell the believers in Galatia (and us)?

**Galatians 3:7** Know ye therefore that they which are of \_\_\_\_\_, the same are the children of Abraham.

It is when Christ is received as a personal Saviour that salvation comes to the soul. Zacchaeus had received Jesus, not merely as a passing guest in his home, but as One to abide in the soul temple. The scribes and Pharisees accused him as a sinner, they murmured against Christ for becoming his guest, but the Lord recognized him as a son of Abraham.

**Can you see Jesus longs to come into your heart?**

**Would you like peace from this wicked world?**

**When is the time to reach out in faith?**

