

The Wee Little Man

read

Luke 19:1-10

think

I'm thankful that Luke was able to record this account in his Gospel because it's absurd. Make no mistake: Jesus is the main character in this account. But the actions of Zacchaeus before and after He meets Jesus make this both astounding and hilarious. Have you ever tried to fight for a good spot on the street during a parade?

Imagine what Zacchaeus is facing as he tries to glimpse the man he's heard about so much. He ties his robe around his waist, runs ahead of the crowd, climbs a tree, and waits. What a fanatic! Not only does he look ridiculous, but his plan works better than he probably ever imagined. Jesus calls out to him in a tree by name and invites Himself over for dinner.

Zacchaeus doesn't encounter Jesus on his second week of the job; he's the *chief* tax collector. His social circle is small. To the Romans, he's an employee. To his fellow Israelites, he's a traitor who works for the Romans. But to Jesus, he's so much more. Zacchaeus is a tax collector, but that is what he does – not who he is. To Jesus, he is loved by God. He is one who was lost, but through faith, has been found. Jesus came to seek and save the lost (vs. 10) like Zacchaeus; a work which was about to be accomplished as He set out towards Jerusalem.

apply

- The Gospel clearly transformed Zacchaeus (vs. 8). In what ways have you seen the Gospel impact and change your own life?
- Are there people in your life like Zacchaeus who need to have an encounter with Jesus? Would you prayerfully consider talking to them about Jesus?

pray

Heavenly Father, as we consider your work of "seeking and saving the lost," may our hearts be filled with thankfulness. We thank you that your gift of salvation extends to everyone – not just a select few. Help us to have your heart of compassion and mercy as we consider those around us who are still lost, whomever they may be. Give us strength, courage, and grace-filled persistence to continue to work in Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

by Dan Hurner

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