

October 6, 2024 AM – Pastor Kevin Olivier
Luke 19:1-10 – “Jesus Came to Seek and to Save”

- A. Why did Jesus come into the world?
B. The purpose of Christ’s ministry was told at the beginning by the angel Gabriel when he revealed it to Mary in **Lu 1**. → **Lu 1:30-35**. In **Mat. 1:21** and angel told Joseph in a dream that Mary “**will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.**”

Put your faith in Jesus who came to seek and save the lost.	I. ZACCHEUS’ FAITH II. CHRIST’S PURPOSE
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I. **ZACCHEUS’ FAITH** → **vv1-4**

- A. What could have been the reason why Zaccheus sought to see Jesus?
1. Zaccheus heard stories about Jesus.
 - a. Zaccheus did not have an evil spirit to be delivered from.
 - b. He did not have a disease to be healed from.
 - c. Zaccheus made his riches by working as a “**chief tax collector.**”
 - 1) He had a nice home, many possessions, and servants.
 - 2) Despite his wealth, this Jewish man was not complete.
 2. This man really wanted to see Jesus because he was drawn to Him.
 - a. Our text says the main reasons was out of mere curiosity.
 - b. Because Zaccheus was raised as a Jew, he would have been somewhat familiar with the messianic prophecies. He had an expectation for God to send His Christ— the Messiah or Anointed One.

- B. In **Heb 11**, there are men who demonstrated their faith by great deeds. Noah built an ark in preparation for a worldwide flood. Abraham left his homeland to live as an alien and dwell in tents because “**he was looking for the city which has foundations whose architect and builder is God**” (**vv7-10**). How did Zaccheus demonstrate his faith?
1. It did not seem like much, but the first thing Zaccheus did was climb a tree to see Jesus.
 2. In **Jn 12**, when Greeks proselytes were on their way to worship at a Jewish feast, they said to Philip, “**Sir, we wish to see Jesus**” (**vv20-21**).
 3. Zaccheus further demonstrated his faith by how he responded when Jesus came to him. → **vv5-6**
 - a. More than only seeing Him, Zaccheus had the opportunity to spend at least an evening and morning with Him.
 - b. His Hospitality was a demonstration of his love for Jesus.
 - c. While Jesus stayed at the home of this chief tax collector, there must have been something that Jesus said that directed him to change his ways. → **v8**
 - 1) He gave to the poor in need and made restitution for those he cheated.
 - 2) Zaccheus demonstrated a faith in Christ that changed him and led him to a life of repentance— a change of mind and a turning away from his sin unto God.
 - 3) True saving faith is not only crying out to Jesus by saying, “Lord, Lord.” According to **WSC 87**, “Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.”

II. CHRIST'S PURPOSE

A. Jesus explained the purpose of His earthly ministry when facing the ridicule of the crowd. → **v7**

1. Usually, it was the Jewish leadership who spoke ill of Jesus, yet today's text says it was the common folk who criticized Him.
 - a. **"They all [who] began to grumble"** in **v7** refers to the crowd mentioned earlier in **v3**.
 - b. Tax collectors were hated by most Jews because they were a reminder of their Roman rulers. They were also considered as vile because they were frequently dishonest. Because Zaccheus had a record of defrauding others, he was an example of this.
 1. To defraud someone is different than open theft.
 2. When a burglar is done with you, it is usually obvious that you have been robbed.
 3. When a crafty tax collector defrauded someone, they often never realized they were taken advantage of.
2. There is a major problem with most of those who accused tax collectors as being sinners. They examined themselves too favorably and wrongly thought they were not sinners!
 - a. One cannot confess Christ as Lord and Savior unless they first realize that they are sinners in God's sight, justly deserving His wrath and curse for sin— death and eternal death in hell forever.
 - b. If you tell a person they need to be saved by Christ, they first need to know what they must be saved from.

B. In light of Zaccheus turning away from his sin and wickedness, look at what Jesus said of His earthly ministry. → **vv9-10**

1. To a large degree, **"He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him" (Jn 1:11)**.
 - a. Some of His own Jewish people— sons and daughters of Abraham— who received Jesus were fishermen, harlots, and tax collectors.
 - b. Like Zaccheus, such sinners who received Him, turned from their sin with an "endeavor after new obedience."
 - c. Unlike the rich young ruler, Jesus did not ask Zaccheus to give up all his possessions.
2. When we read that, **"The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost,"** how does He do that in our modern day and age?
 - a. He uses you all. You are His body.
 - b. You are His hands and feet when you seek to help those in need.
 - c. When I preach or when you witness Christ and His gospel, you serve as His mouthpiece here on earth. **2 Cor 5:20** says, **"We are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."**

Review, further application, and conclusion: