

Bible Stories for Adults

Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

Opening

- Gathering: What ways have you seen people respond enthusiastically to Jesus' call?
- Today's Focus: Zacchaeus responded in repentance and faith to Jesus' call and was granted salvation.
- Key Verses: *Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham."* Luke 19:9
- The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.* Luke 19:10

Opening Prayer

Lesson

From Galilee (*Matthew 19:1-2*)

- Where did Jesus go after He first left Galilee and with whom? = John baptized at Bethany (John 1:28)
Matthew 3:13, 4:1 = Across the Jordan (Perea), into desert with Spirit
- Where did Jesus go after He last left Galilee and with whom?
Matthew 19:1-2 = Across the Jordan, large crowds followed Him

To Jerusalem (*John 11*)

- Did Jesus continue to spend time with the crowds in Judea and Perea until His final trip to Jerusalem?
John 11:47-48, 53-54 = No, He withdrew to Ephraim with His disciples until the time was right
- Did the public understand why Jesus had withdrawn?
John 11:55-57 = Yes, they even wondered if He dared come to Jerusalem for the Passover
- When Jesus finally left for Jerusalem, did He first calm the fears of His disciples?
Luke 18:31-34 = No, He told exactly what would happen, they didn't understand

Just Passing Through (*Luke 19:1*)

- Who did Jesus meet on His way to Jerusalem? = as He was leaving Jericho
Mark 10:46, 51-52 = Bartimaeus (Mark 10), received sight, last week's lesson
- As a Jew, Mark referred to the Old Testament Jericho. How did the non-Jew Luke record the location?
Luke 18:35 = Jesus saw Bartimaeus as He approached New Testament Jericho
- Did it appear that Jesus intended to stay in New Testament Jericho?
Luke 19:1-2a = No, He *was passing through*
- Had He actually planned to stay or pass through?
Luke 19:5 = He had specific plans to stay the night with Zacchaeus
- Why might Jesus and His disciples been in a hurry to pass through Jericho?
Luke 10:30 = Jericho to Jerusalem road was dangerous, 6-hr 2400ft ascent – travel in daylight
- Are there other examples where Jesus looked like He would pass by where He was needed?
Mark 6:48 = He was about to walk by the disciples trying to row against the wind
Luke 18:37-38, 40 = He was passing by blind Bartimaeus who persisted to get Jesus to stop
Luke 24:13, 28 = Acted like he'd go further before disciples recognized Him after resurrection
- How could Jesus just pass by someone who needs Him? = Others not His sheep
John 10:25-27 = Jesus calls, He knows His sheep and they hear His voice and follow

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The Chief of Sinners and Tax Collectors (Luke 19:2)

Jericho controlled the strategic ford of the Jordan to the ancient Eastern trade routes
Key roads from Jericho = N to Bethel and Shechem, W to Jerusalem, S to Hebron
On main road for Jews traveling to and from Galilee (bypass around Samaria)
Strong customs and excise collection in this trade center

Who was in charge of the powerful tax office in Jericho?

Luke 19:2 = Zacchaeus .. *he was chief tax collector*

As such a wealthy man, how respected would Zacchaeus have been? = hated, scum of society

Matthew 18:17 = Treat the unrepentant like a pagan or tax collector

Matthew 5:44, 46 = Even the tax collectors love those who love them

= Jewish traitors (collected for Rome), Forced more than required (profit)

Zacchaeus Was A Wee Little Man (Luke 19:3, 4)

How well did Zacchaeus know Jesus? = Curious to see this man people talked about

Luke 19:3 = He didn't, *He wanted to see who Jesus was*

What problems did Zacchaeus have to be able to see Jesus?

Luke 19:3 = Being short, he couldn't see over the crowd

Leviticus 22:3 = Unclean to stay away from the Lord, tax collectors were considered unclean

How earnestly did Zacchaeus want to see Jesus?

Luke 19:4 = *He ran ahead and climbed a tree*, unbecoming for chief publican

Sycamore-fig = Inferior to ordinary fig, Widespread low branches, Along roads for shade

Not a sycamore tree; transliteration of Greek *sukomoraia* = fig (*sukon*) – mulberry (*moraia*)

What promise had God made that fit Zacchaeus' situation?

Deuteronomy 4:29 = *You'll find God if you look for Him with all your heart and soul*

The Savior's Call (Luke 19:5)

Was Zacchaeus able to see this Jesus like he so eagerly wanted?

Luke 19:5 = Yes, and much more so; He not only saw Jesus, Jesus saw him

Isn't it amazing that Jesus called Zacchaeus by name?

John 10:2-3, 14 = Jesus is the Great Shepherd who *calls His own sheep by name*

Was Jesus' call to Zacchaeus just for him or also for us?

Revelation 3:20 = *If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in*

What does Jesus' call of Zacchaeus tell us about His call to us?

Gracious = He might have passed by (verse 1)

Personal = He called Zacchaeus by name

Urgent = He told him to come down *immediately*

Humbling = He told him to *come down*

Affectionate = Stay at your house (friendly)

Assuring = *I must*

Effective = He came down *at once*

Zac's Answer to the Call (Luke 19:6)

How did Zacchaeus respond to Jesus' call? = Welcomed Him into his home

Luke 19:6 = Enthusiastically - *He came down at once, welcomed Him gladly*

Did Jesus expect this kind of welcome?

John 10:4 = Yes, *His sheep follow Him because they know His voice*

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Zac's Response to the Call (Luke 19:8)

Did Jesus really leave the crowd to go to Zacchaeus' house?

Luke 19:7 = Yes, the crowd complained that *He has gone to be the guest of a sinner*

Did Jesus' visit really change Zacchaeus' life? = Had simply gone to see Jesus out of idle curiosity

Luke 19:8 = Yes, showed faith by giving half to poor, pay back wrong 4X - took formal stand

What example of giving to the poor had been commanded on Mount Sinai? = Z was giving half

Exodus 23:10-11 = Leave ground fallow on 7th year and let poor glean food from it

What was the command for making restitution for wrongs against another and voluntarily confesses?

Numbers 5:6-7 = Repay wrong plus a fifth (120%) – Penalty was 2X if caught

What class of crime did Zacchaeus accept by paying back four times?

Exodus 22:1 = Theft, Pay back 4 sheep for one stolen sheep

The Result of Zac's Response (Luke 19:9)

How did Jesus respond to Zacchaeus' comment?

Luke 19:9 = Announced that Zacchaeus has received salvation

Was Zacchaeus saved because he gave to the poor and made amends for his cheating?

Luke 18:18-22 = To earn salvation requires perfect lifetime obedience and giving all

Why was Zacchaeus saved?

Luke 7:48, 50 = *Your sins are forgiven...your faith has saved you.*

How did Zacchaeus' statement show that he had saving faith?

James 2:17-18 = *I will show you my faith by what I do* - It was his faith in action

Did Jesus say that Zacchaeus was saved because he was a Jew, a descendant of Abraham?

Matthew 3:9 (John 8:31-41) = No, being a physical descendant of Abraham does not save

Then why did Jesus say Zacchaeus was saved because he was a son of Abraham?

Galatians 3:7, 29 (1-29) = *If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs...*

The Walls of Jericho (Luke 19:8-9)

Known as *the oldest walled town in the world* = Walls were built many years before Abraham

Where were the Israelites when their wanderings officially ended?

Joshua 5:10-12 = By Jericho at Passover; Jesus ended travels by Jericho at Passover

Where did the Israelites first see God's power in giving them the Promised Land?

Joshua 6:1-2, 20-21 = Jericho; Jesus about to conquer Satan to bring us the Promised Land

What caused the walls of Jericho to tumble down?

Hebrews 11:30 = Faith of the people

What caused the walls of Zacchaeus' sinfulness and greed to tumble down?

Luke 19:8-9 = Repentance and faith

Zacchaeus the Pure (Luke 19:7)

Zacchaeus is Greek form of Hebrew word for *pure* = Greek is Zakchaios, Hebrew is zakkay

How pure was Zacchaeus in the eyes of those who felt they knew about righteousness?

Luke 18:11 = Tax collectors were as impure as you could get

How did the people of Jericho feel about Jesus' outreach to Zacchaeus?

Luke 19:7 = They felt it was wrong for Him to fellowship with a Sinner

How does Zacchaeus' name become fitting when he is chosen by Jesus?

Ephesians 1:4-7 = Chose us to be holy and blameless (pure) by redemption through His blood

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Come to Seek and Save the Lost (*Luke 19:10*)

Shouldn't Jesus have gone to stay with a church leader or scholar instead of a chief sinner?

Luke 19:10 = *The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost*

Greek word for *lost* is same as used for *perish* or *destroy*.

John 3:16 = *... whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

John 10:10 = *The thief comes only to ... destroy. I have come that they may have life.*

What kinds of people does God count as lost sinners deserving to perish and be destroyed?

Psalm 14:2-3 = *All have turned aside...there is no one who does good...*

Were there other examples where Jesus sought out sinners as great as Zacchaeus?

Luke 5:27-28 = He called Levi (Matthew) from his tax booth to be an apostle

How did the church leaders and scholars respond to Jesus' fellowship with this sinner?

Luke 5:29-30 = They complained that it was wrong

How did Jesus respond to their complaints?

Luke 5:31-32 = *I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance*

How early in Jesus' life had His mission to save lost sinners been revealed?

Matthew 1:21 = Angel told Joseph that Jesus *will save his people from their sins*

Where did Jesus go after today's lesson that showed His mission to save the perishing?

Luke 19:28 = To Jerusalem to die for our sins - Next week's story

The Great Banquet (*Luke 14:16-24*)

What parable did Jesus tell to explain why He was called to seek the sinners?

Luke 14:16-17 = A man invited many guests to the banquet (kingdom of heaven)

How did the chosen reply to the invitation?

Luke 14:18-20 = Made excuses for not coming (church leaders and scholars)

What did the host do to fill his banquet hall?

Luke 14:21-24 = Invited those who didn't appear to be worthy

What other parables did Jesus speak to point out His calling to save the lost?

Luke 15:3-7 = The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Luke 15:8-10 = The Parable of the Lost Coin

Luke 15:11-32 = The Parable of the Lost Son (Prodigal Son, Forgiving Father)

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. What gets in the way of my ability to see Jesus?
(*Luke 19:3; Matthew 7:3-5; 19:13-14; 23:13; Mark 10:21-23; John 12:37-46; Romans 8:35-39*)
2. When have I sought or praised God without concern for what others might think of me?
(*Luke 19:4, 37; 1 Samuel 10:9-11; 19:23-24; 2 Samuel 6:14-16, 20-22; Psalm 95:1-2; 149:1-5*)
3. Does Jesus know my name? Does He call to me?
(*Luke 19:5; Mark 2:17; John 10:1-16; Acts 2:39; Romans 1:5-6; 11:29; Revelation 3:20*)
4. How have I responded to Jesus' call?
(*Luke 19:6, 8; Isaiah 6:8; Acts 2:41; Galatians 1:6-9; 1 Timothy 6:12*)
5. How certain am I that I have been saved?
(*Luke 19:9; Isaiah 28:16; John 20:31; 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11; Hebrews 11:1; 2 Peter 1:10-11*)