



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Luke Sermon Series
Supports Session 6: Sinners?
Sermon Title: "The Seeking Savior"
Passage: Luke 19:1-10

Connection to Luke 19

In verse 10, to a crowd surprised by His interaction with a tax collector, Jesus provided His ministry purpose statement: "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost." Jesus came for the outcast and downcast.

Introduction/Opening

Jesus was a seeker. Wherever He went He sought people who needed His teaching, needed His preaching, needed His ministry. He sought people who would follow Him and serve Him, and His profile of a follower was unique. He didn't seek out the religious, self-righteous, or elite. He sought the outcast and the downcast. And even though Zacchaeus was just one man, when Jesus sought him, He demonstrated the different kinds of people He seeks.

Outline

1. Jesus seeks those who are unaware of their need (vv. 1-5).
 - a. As Jesus approached Jericho on His way to Jerusalem, a curious crowd developed, hoping to see Him perform a miracle (18:35-36). Healing a blind beggar, Jesus didn't disappoint. The excitement spilled into Jericho and people, including Zacchaeus, gathered to catch a glimpse of Jesus.
 - b. Luke states in verse 3 that Zacchaeus wanted to see who Jesus was but was unable to see over the crowd. Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree to gain a better perspective. Zacchaeus didn't really want anything from Jesus; he was just curious who He was.
 - c. Zacchaeus had position (a chief tax-collector for the Romans), wealth (he was rich), and was in a right standing with God, or so he thought (Zacchaeus means "righteous"). Zacchaeus assumed his life was all put together, but he was mistaken.
 - d. Though Zacchaeus was unaware of his need, Jesus wasn't. It wasn't by accident that Jesus stopped under that tree. He stopped because He was seeking Zacchaeus, a man unaware of his own needs.
2. Jesus seeks those who are unwanted by others (vv. 2,7).
 - a. Zacchaeus was a Jewish man who was also a chief tax-collector for the Roman government. As a result, most Jews considered him a traitor. In their minds he had betrayed his country and befriended the enemy. Most Jews would have hated him and wanted nothing to do with him.

- b. The very nature of his work also stirred up hatred. As the chief tax-collector, he was responsible for submitting to Rome a certain amount of collected taxes. Anything he could collect above the prescribed rate was his to keep. So, through manipulation and intimidation, he extorted his way to wealth. (See verse 8.)
 - c. Because of what he did and who he worked for, Zacchaeus was an unwanted and hated man (v. 7). That is the very kind of person Jesus sought.
3. Jesus seeks those who are unable to get to Him (vv. 3, 4).
- a. The crowd was thick, and no one would make room for Zacchaeus to get to Jesus, so he climbed a tree to get to Jesus.
 - b. Ironically, his own self-effort took him farther away from Jesus. The higher he went, the worse his situation became. Jesus knew that Zacchaeus, through his own efforts, could never get to Him (Eph. 2:8-9). So, He stopped and said, “hurry and come down because today it is necessary for me to stay at your house.”

Conclusion

In the 1994 classic movie, *Forrest Gump*, Lt. Dan asked Forrest, “Have you found Jesus yet, Gump?” To which Forrest responded, “I didn’t know I was supposed to be looking for Him, sir.” Most people, like Forrest, have no idea they should be looking for Jesus. Thankfully He is a seeking Savior looking for those who aren’t looking, can’t look, and aren’t wanted by anyone else.

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