

Why did Jesus come?

Luke 19:1-10

“To seek and save the lost” – December 27, 2020



Introduction

It's possible to be lost, yet oblivious to the danger because we don't realize it. But if you've ever been lost and *know it* – the number one priority becomes getting help. After Luke 18 tells the story of a rich young ruler ([Luke 18:18-30](#)) who was blind to his lostness and unwilling to follow Jesus because his wealth, power, and *self-righteousness* provided the illusion of being safe, Luke turns to another rich man: Zacchaeus who *realizes* he is lost and comes to find a merciful Savior.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

Those who know they are lost and come to Christ will find a Savior ready to save, for that's why He came!

Read & Discuss

Read [Luke 19:1-10](#)

When we're introduced to Zacchaeus, we find out that he was both rich and a tax collector. Tax collectors were considered to be the lowest of the low by their fellow Jews not only because their job was to collect taxes for Rome (what they considered an unfair power that lorded it over them) but they were free to collect as much as they like as long as Rome got their cut. Being a tax collector meant a lucrative career – but for many it came at the cost of your soul. It seems Zacchaeus had drunk deep from what the world had to offer: riches, power, and pleasure – only to find it wanting. As Ecclesiastes reminds us, God has put eternity in our hearts (Ecc. 3:11) such that the stuff of this world cannot satisfy. Now that the stuff the world had to offer didn't satisfy, all he was left with was the shame and guilt of stealing from others – it was their hurt that became his gain. How could he live with himself now?

Whether he knew it or not, his soul was thirsting for God. When Jesus came by there was something about Him. Zacchaeus had to see Him for there was something about Jesus that he knew satisfied and filled what his heart longed for (see [John 7:37-38](#)). Have there been times you could identify with Zacchaeus with this longing or his guilt? In those moments of clarity in which we feel our need of Christ, Satan loves to distract us with *other* pleasures, entertainments, worries, fear of man...anything to keep us from going to God ([Luke 18:16-20](#)). If you're able to identify any of those distractions take some time to pray and map out a plan to root them out and so you are free to come to Christ!

When the rich young ruler from Luke 18 walked away from Jesus to keep his riches intact, Jesus said it's harder for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God than it is for a camel to go through the eye of a needle. Yet here, in Luke 19, we find salvation coming to a rich man who repents and trusts in Christ. Praise God He is able to make the impossible possible. Who is the person you've prayed for but in your estimation seems to be *impossible*? Perhaps you think, there's too much for them to give up to follow Christ or their sin is so great they'll never give it up or believe God can forgive them? Don't stop praying for them! Right now, take a moment to plead with God to do in their life what He did in Zacchaeus' life – what He's graciously done in the lives of sinners like you and me!

When Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house, the crowds grumbled (see [v7](#)) that Jesus would associated with the likes of a tax collector. Take a moment to reflect on Jesus' story of the Pharisee and the tax collector in [Luke 18:9-14](#). The Pharisee had a similar attitude as that of the crowds. Do you see any of this self-righteousness in your own life? Jesus didn't come to heal those who saw themselves as good people – He came to 'seek and save the lost' (v10). Those who know they are bad and need help. Beware of any heart attitude that looks down on *others* as bad but excuses yourself as someone who Jesus is lucky to have on His team. If you identify such pride, turn away from it! Bring it to God. As we sang on Sunday in "Come Ye Sinners": *View Him prostrate in the garden, on the ground Your Maker lies. On the bloody tree behold Him; sinner will this not suffice? Lo! The incarnate God ascended, pleads the merit of His blood. Venture on Him, venture wholly. Let no other trust intrude.*¹

Knowing what God has revealed about Christ in this text and His heart for us, how should you respond? How does Luke 19:1-10 *challenge* any wrong ideas about God and why Jesus came?

Additional Reading: Galatians 3:1-7, Matthew 11:28-30

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

*Next week's sermon text: **Habakkuk 1:1-11** "What are you up to God?"

¹ "Come Ye Sinners" verses 4-5, by Joseph Hart