

“Things Accomplished Among Us” (Luke 1:1)

Selected Reflections From Luke

Short People

Luke 19

I’m going to read from Luke chapter 19, and – those of you who know me personally – will not be surprised to hear me say, THIS IS ABOUT ONE OF MY FAVORITE BIBLE CHARACTERS. This is Luke 19:1-10.

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ²A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy.³He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-figtree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.”⁶So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

⁸But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

⁹Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

This little man, Zacchaeus, was a seeker. By that I mean, he wasn’t content to hear 2nd hand news or get indirect accounts. Luke says, “...he was seeking to see who Jesus was.” He had to exert some effort, but what a blessing climbing the tree turned out to be, for this little tax collector.

The risk did not inhibit him. I mean, the risk of receiving Jesus into his house. “He hurried and came down and received him joyfully.” There were people who grumbled, but not only did Zacchaeus have Jesus over, he responded to Jesus by pledging a change in his conduct, to restore what he had taken from tax payers. Jesus responded favorably: “Salvation has to come this house,” and then Luke tells us what this narrative illustrates: “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Well folks, you don’t have to climb a tree. What you have to do is seek Jesus. Seek Him in God’s Word; put him in your life; become His faithful disciple. This is what Jesus wants. He “came to seek and to save the lost.”

Thank you for listening.

-Warren E. Berkley