



Bringing Home the Word

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
November 3, 2019

Hurry to See Jesus

By Mary Katharine Deeley

I'm the shortest one in nearly every picture in which I appear. It's not that I'm that short (about three inches below average), but I am surrounded by taller people. Consequently, Zacchaeus has always been a particular favorite of mine. I certainly would have tried to get higher to see Jesus, too. Maybe Zacchaeus and I would have shared a branch.

But Zacchaeus inspires me for another reason. When Jesus, whom Zacchaeus knew only by reputation, called to him, his response was immediate. He came down to stand in front of Jesus. In their

society, tax collectors were considered traitors and ostracized by all. In the process of working for the Romans, Zacchaeus strengthened Caesar's influence and likely charged more than he should have to support a wealthy lifestyle when most Jews lived in poverty.

Seeing Zacchaeus in the tree, Jesus seized the opportunity to bring conversion to a sinner. Instead of judgment or bitterness from a stranger, Jesus offered him words of welcome. Zacchaeus heard the invitation (literal and spiritual) in Jesus' statement—"I must stay at your house"—and "received him with joy" (Luke 1:5-6).

When Jesus enters our house, we find the strength to turn from sin. The effect of Jesus' presence on Zacchaeus was immediate. As they stood together, he turned from his sin and promised to care for the poor and make restitution for anything he stole. Let us hurry to receive Jesus into our hearts and turn away from our sin as well. +

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A Word from Pope Francis

The politics of nonviolence have to begin in the home and then spread to the entire human family. "Saint Thérèse of Lisieux invites us to practice the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile, or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship."

—Fiftieth World Day of Peace,
January 1, 2017



Sunday Readings

Wisdom 11:22—12:2

For you love all things that are / and loathe nothing that you have made; / for you would not fashion what you hate.

2 Thessalonians 1:11—2:2

We always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling.

Luke 19:1-10

[Jesus said to Zacchaeus,] "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- Am I listening for Jesus' invitation into my heart and home?
- How can my family and I make our home a more welcoming place for Jesus?