**Week of March 24, 2019**

**Luke 19:1-10**

1 And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. 2 And, behold, there was a man named\* Zacchaeus, which\* was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. 3 And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. 4 And he ran before and climbed up into a sycomore tree to see him: for he was to pass\* that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house. 6 And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. 7 And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, that he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. 8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. 9 And Jesus said unto him\*,This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

 **Understanding the Scriptures**

Today’s lesson is coming from the book of Luke and this story focuses on a Jewish man named Zacchaeus who lived in Jericho. Ironically, Zacchaeus’s name means “pure”, but his occupation was anything but pure. Zacchaeus was the superintendent of custos. The Jewish people hated Zacchaeus because he not only worked for the Roman government, but also worked with the Romans to enforce heave taxes on his own people. The Jewish people saw Zacchaeus as a traitor who word work with an enemy to cheat his own people. Zacchaeus heard Jesus was passing through Jericho and was eager to get a better look at Him. Bing a short man, he climbed a sycamore tree, so he could see. As Jesus walked by, He looked up, called Zacchaeus by name and told him to come down as he announced, “I must stay at your house today”. Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and received Jesus into his home and into his heart. Jesus willingness to stay at the home of Zacchaeus undoubtly confused the crowd. Wy would Jesus spend time with a known sinner? Jesus looked beyond Zacchaeus’s reputation. Knowing Zacchaeus’s sin, Jesus used this encounter to change Zacchaeus’s life forever. Faith in Jesus, public confession, and a change heart is God’s requirement for salvation. The sincerity of Zacchaeus’s faith and repentance was demonstrated in his confession and his offer to pay back four time the amount of money he had taken from the people illegally. Zacchaeus’s new relationship with Jesus was more important than money. Jesus came to save every lost soul, no matter what their cultural and religious ancestry may be.

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