

When Zaccheus Meets Jesus

Luke 19:1-10

The Bible is full of interesting encounters that people had with Jesus.

- There is the encounter with Nathaniel (John 1:46-51).
- There is the encounter with Nicodemus (John 3:1-21).
- There is the encounter with the man born blind (John 9).
- There is the encounter with the rich young ruler (Mark 10:17-22).
- There is the hostile encounter with the Pharisees (Matthew 23:1-36).
- There are the encounters with Pilate and Herod before He was crucified (Luke 23:1-12).

Another interesting encounter that is often overlooked is the one the Lord had with Zaccheus in Luke 19:1-10. This encounter is only found in the gospel of Luke. It occurred as Jesus was passing through Jericho on His way to Jerusalem to die for the sins of the world.

I. Key Observations:

- A. Zaccheus' name means pure. It means to be "clean," or "innocent."
- B. He was a chief tax collector (Luke 19:2).
- C. He was rich (Luke 19:2).
- D. He wanted to see Jesus (Luke 19:3a).
- E. He was "small in stature" (Luke 19:3b).
- F. He climbed into a sycamore tree (Luke 19:4).
- G. Jesus said He must stay in his house (Luke 19:5).
- H. He gladly received the Lord in his house (Luke 19:6).

II. Key Lessons:

- A. Jesus knows you!
 1. He knew Zaccheus. He called him by name (Luke 19:5).
 2. He knows you in the same way!
- B. Jesus wants you!
 1. People grumbled against Jesus because He went to spend time in Zaccheus' home (Luke 19:7). This wasn't the only time people grumbled about this (Luke 7:39; 15:1-2). Jesus spent time with sinners and outcasts not because He approved of their sins, but because He wanted to save their souls (Luke 19:9-10; John 8:11).
 2. The Lord wants to do the same for you! But you must receive Him like Zaccheus did!
- C. Jesus can change you!
 1. Jesus changed Zaccheus (Luke 19:8).
 2. He also changed many other people (ex: Saul, Simon the Sorcerer, the Corinthians). See 1 Corinthians 6:9-11.
 3. He can also change you!

Conclusion: Zaccheus humbled himself and followed Jesus? Will you?