

Zacchaeus Was A Wee Little Man

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Luke 19:1 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

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

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

8 But 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.”

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

The Holy Bible: New International Version. (1984). (Lk 19:1–10). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

Zacchaeus was a wee little man
And a wee little man was he
He climbed up in a sycamore tree
For the Lord he wanted to see

Jesus notices Zacchaeus, even though perhaps Zaccheus was trying to avoid being noticed!

- Jesus knows Z’s story, but reaches out to him and includes him anyway!
- Zaccheus is used to being not noticed and ignored.
- It’s not believe -> behave, and then belong. Jesus includes first, put belonging first. Zaccheus is included in the grace of God – a child of Abraham – even if no one else treats him that way.
- Jesus knows his name, so he also knows his reputation. Jesus doesn’t care what anyone else thinks.
- Unconditional acceptance leads to unconditional repentance.
- When we talked about the story in our Adult Ed hour, we noticed how the tree can be a metaphor for trust. Some of us say, “No, I’ll stay up here in the tree where it is safe. I can’t

be reached by all the people on the ground who hate me.”

And when the Savior passed that way
He looked up in the tree
And said, 'Zacchaeus, you come down!
For I'm going to your house today!
For I'm going to your house today!'

Zacchaeus was a wee little man
But a happy man was he
For he had seen the Lord that day
And a happy man was he;
And a very happy man was he

The problem: How can I satisfy my curiosity about Jesus?

The invitation: Let's spend time together.

The question we leave with: Will we come down from the tree?

- What other problems (or maybe a better word for it is tensions) do you see in the story?
- We hear the invitation Jesus makes to Zacchaeus. What implied invitation is Jesus making to the onlookers?
- What other “beautiful questions” linger for you, long after the story has been told?