

## Impact Relaunch 8

### SERMON NOTES: He Looked Up

#### Sermon Scripture References:

Main – Luke 19:1-9

**Luke 19:1-9** “Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see Him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, He looked up and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.’ So he came down at once and welcomed Him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, ‘He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.’ 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.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.’”

#### 1. A Deep Longing

Zacchaeus has a deep longing.

The desperation that Zacchaeus is experiencing is “the feeling of needing or wanting something very much.”

You can hear the longing in the words used to tell the story.

**Luke 19:3** “He wanted to see who Jesus was...”

Zacchaeus doesn’t just want to ‘see’ Jesus. He’s desperate for more. He wants insight into Jesus’ identity. He wants to see Jesus’ character.

As followers of Jesus, we don’t just want to ‘catch a glimpse’ of Jesus. We want a fresh revelation. We want a new encounter. We want the pure illumination of the Spirit.

He’s the Name that’s above every other name.

**Prov. 18:10** “The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.”

And in response to who Jesus is, God wants to stir up a longing in our hearts just like the longing that was stirred up in the heart of David.

**Psalm 42:1,2 “As a deer longs for streams of water,so I long for you, O God! I thirst for God, for the living God.”**

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why was Zacchaeus longing to see who Jesus was?
2. Why is this longing good?
3. Have you ever felt that longing to get to know who Jesus is?

### **2. A Big Problem**

**Luke 19:3 “He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd.”**

But what’s really holding him back? There’s a story in the Bible about a senior lady with an internal hemorrhage that she’s had for years, who just pushes through a crowd to get to Jesus. She’s old and she’s sick and she’s weak but she pushes through.

So why doesn’t Zacchaeus just push through?

What’s holding us back?

What Zacchaeus would consider a deficit and a problem, being short, drives him to a place where he actually has an encounter with God.

It’s possible that what we think are our deficits and problems can actually drive us to be in a place to reach out to God.

**Rom. 8:28 “And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.”**

Not everything is good. But God can use everything.

**Luke 19:4 “So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see Him, since Jesus was coming that way.”**

There’s a deep longing to come to Jesus.

Jesus wants you to break through and He wants you to come closer to Him than you’ve ever been before.

**Isa. 60:1 “Arise, shine, for your light has come,and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.”**

His glory rises on you so you can reflect that glory and show His brilliance and glory to a lost and dying world.

**1 Thess. 5:17,18 “Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.”**

**Eph. 6:11 “Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.”**

**Matt. 6:33 “ Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously...”**

These are action concepts.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Was Zacchaeus height an impediment to know Jesus?
2. What is stopping you from getting to know Jesus? Please share.

### **3.The Call**

**Luke 19:5 “When Jesus reached the spot, He looked up and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.’”**

Jesus consciously and intentionally looks up and calls out.

Jesus knows his name just like Jesus knows your name.

There’s no judgement or condemnation. Only grace and acceptance.

‘I want to stay with you’ which, in their culture, is a sign of embrace and friendship.

God’s heart is always a heart of invitation.

**Isa. 55:1 “Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink...”**

**Matt. 11:28 “Then Jesus said, ‘Come to Me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest’”**

**Rev. 22:17 “The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ Let anyone who hears this say, ‘Come.’ Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life.”**

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Did Jesus called on Zacchaeus with derogatory names due to his past?
2. How did he call him?

3. What was Jesus' invitation to Zacchaeus and what does it mean in the Jewish culture of the time?

#### 4. The Final Outcome

**Luke 19:6 "So he came down at once and welcomed Him gladly."**

As we respond to His call. As we draw nearer to Jesus. We're changed more and more into His image. We become more like Him. We're transformed.

#### QUESTIONS:

1. What effect did Jesus' invitation have on Zacchaeus?
2. What did people say when Jesus extended the invitation to Zacchaeus?
3. Did Jesus mind people's opinion of Zacchaeus? Why do you think Jesus did it?

#### Putting it all together (Application)

1. **When we are longing, we cannot wait in the sidelines.** Zacchaeus felt a longing to know who Jesus was. Have you ever had that feeling? Having it can make us feel like we are in front of a fork road. We either go with it and find what we are longing for or we wait for it to pass and don't do anything about it. Staying still can be motivated by many reasons. Fear, doubt, people's opinion, etc. All valid, but if you think about it, all external. The longing comes from within. We cannot wait on the sidelines and see how Jesus walks by without taking the opportunity to know who he is. Because we don't know if we are going to have time later. That is why we need to go with it as Zacchaeus did. Jesus is waiting for us. What are you waiting for?

2. **Push through, just push through.** As followers of Jesus, we have faced challenges on our walk with him. Challenges that may have left scars of self-doubt and unworthiness of his grace and love. Zacchaeus without even being a follower of Jesus yet had similar challenges. All he has done to get rich, all the controversy around his way of doing his job, all that originated on Zacchaeus a feeling of fear and doubt of unworthiness to get closer to Jesus. He preferred to see it from far away. Don't get into anyone's path and just be a viewer from the distance, mind his own business and no one will know he was there. Sounds familiar?

But Jesus saw him. Just as he saw Nathanael under the fig tree (John 1:48-49). Just as he sees you. Don't let the fear, doubt or any feeling coming from you restrain you from reaching out to Jesus. He is longing to be with you. Push through your self-doubts, fear, doubts of unworthiness. You are worthy, Jesus already settled that on the cross. He paid for you with his blood. You are worthy! So keep pushing through, just push through.

3. **The invitation is opened.** Jesus called on Zacchaeus knowing who he was and what he had done. He called on him not shaming him with his mistakes, he already knew them. But instead he gave Zacchaeus the grace that he needed. He called on him based on what he knew Zacchaeus could be.

The same is with us. He knows us by name. We are not strangers to him. He also knows our mistakes; we don't need to hide them from him. But he offers us grace and forgiveness as he did with Zacchaeus. While all the people around him didn't want to be merciful and grateful with Zacchaeus, Jesus did. As he always does with us. The same Jesus that called on Zacchaeus is calling on you. It's the same Jesus that knows your mistakes but wants to overlook them because he knows your potential and the goodness in you. He knows what you could become. The invitation is open, would you open your heart to have him coming and seat down with you as he did with Zacchaeus? (Revelation 3:20).