

## Lesson 14, May 31, 2026, Joyous Faith, Luke 19:1-10

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**Bible Basis:** Luke 19:1-10

**Bible Truth:** Zacchaeus welcomed Jesus with great faith and repentance.

Memory Verse: “<sup>10</sup>For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

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### Lesson Aim: Key Takeaways

To help us understand how Jesus seeks the lost, transforms lives through grace, and calls believers to respond with genuine repentance, humility, and obedience — just as Zacchaeus did when salvation came to his house.

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#### Scripture Overview

Jesus enters Jericho and encounters **Zacchaeus**, a wealthy chief tax collector known for corruption.

Zacchaeus climbs a sycamore tree to see Jesus.

Jesus stops, calls him by name, and goes to his house.

The crowd grumbles.

Zacchaeus responds with repentance and restitution.

Jesus declares:

“Today salvation has come to this house... For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

This is a story of **seeking, saving, repentance, and transformation.**

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#### Context: Why Zacchaeus Matters

Tax collectors were:

- considered traitors to Israel
- known for extortion
- socially despised

- religiously excluded

Zacchaeus wasn't just a tax collector — he was the **chief** tax collector. He represents the person everyone else has written off.

**Teaching point:**

Jesus intentionally seeks out the people others avoid.

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**The Lesson: Luke 19:1-10**

1And *Jesus* entered and passed through Jericho.

2And, behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.

3And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.

4And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.

5And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.

6And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.

7And when they saw *it*, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

8And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore *him* fourfold.

9And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

10For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

**2**  **What's happening here?**

**Against All Odds**

**Zacchaeus' Curiosity (vv. 1–4)**

**1. Jesus Enters Jericho (v.1)**

Jericho was a wealthy, thriving trade city — the perfect place for a tax collector to get rich and the perfect place for Jesus to encounter someone society had written off.

**Teaching Point:**

Jesus often meets people in the middle of their everyday world, not in religious spaces.

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**2. Zacchaeus Is Introduced (v.2)**

We learn three things immediately:

- **His name:** Zacchaeus — ironically meaning “*pure*” or “*innocent*.”
- **His job:** *chief* tax collector — the top of a corrupt system.
- **His status:** very rich — but through exploitation.

He is powerful, wealthy, and despised.

Zacchaeus is the last person anyone expects Jesus to care about.

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**3. Zacchaeus Wants to See Jesus (v.3)**

He’s curious.

He’s drawn.

He wants to see “who Jesus was.”

But he has two obstacles:

- **The crowd** — they block him out.
- **His height** — he’s too short to see over them.

**Teaching Point:**

Sometimes the crowd becomes the barrier between a person and Jesus.

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**4. Zacchaeus Runs Ahead and Climbs a Sycamore Tree (v.4)**

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Zacchaeus wants to “see who Jesus was,” but:

- he is short

- the crowd blocks him
- he climbs a tree — an undignified act for a wealthy man

This shows:

- spiritual hunger
- humility
- willingness to break social norms to get to Jesus

### Teaching Point:

Spiritual transformation often begins with a simple desire to see Jesus more clearly.

### Teaching Point:

Spiritual hunger makes people do things pride normally prevents.

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## 3 What's Happening in Luke 19:5-6

### Call and Response

#### 1. Jesus Stops Exactly Where Zacchaeus Is (v.5)

Zacchaeus climbed the tree just hoping to see Jesus.  
He never expected Jesus to stop.

But Jesus comes to the exact spot, looks up, and sees him.

#### 2. Jesus Calls Zacchaeus by Name

“Zacchaeus, make haste and come down...”

Jesus has never met him, yet He knows his name.

This shows:

- Jesus' personal knowledge
- Jesus' authority
- Jesus' pursuit

### Teaching Point:

Grace is personal. He knows our name.

*“...for today I must abide at your house.”*

## **This is shocking.**

In that culture:

- Eating with someone meant acceptance
- Staying in their home meant relationship
- Entering a “sinner’s” house was scandalous

Jesus doesn’t wait for Zacchaeus to clean up his life.

Jesus enters it.

And the phrase “I must” shows divine necessity — this is part of Jesus’ mission.

### **Teaching Point:**

Jesus moves toward sinners before they move toward Him.

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## **4. Zacchaeus Responds Immediately (v.6)**

“He made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.”

Zacchaeus doesn’t hesitate.

He doesn’t argue.

He doesn’t hide.

He hurries down and welcomes Jesus with joy.

This is the first sign of a changed heart:

- eagerness
- openness
- joy in Jesus’ presence

### **Teaching Point:**

When grace calls, the heart responds with joy, not reluctance.

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## **What’s Happening in Luke 19:7-10**

### **The Crowd’s Reaction (v. 7)**

#### **1. The Crowd Murmurs in Disapproval (v.7)**

*“He has gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.”*

The people are offended (insulted)

They cannot understand why Jesus would choose *him* — a corrupt, wealthy, dishonest tax collector.

They cannot understand why Jesus would choose someone so morally compromised.

**This reveals:**

- their self-righteousness
- their misunderstanding of grace
- their belief that some people are “too sinful” for God

**Teaching Point:**

Grace always offends those who think they’ve earned God’s favor.

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**2. Zacchaeus Stands and Publicly Repents (v.8)**

8And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore *him* fourfold.

Zacchaeus responds not with words of defense but with evidence of transformation:

**A. Radical Generosity**

*“Half of my goods I give to the poor.”*

This is far beyond what the Law required.

It shows a heart that has been softened and freed.

**B. Radical Restitution**

*“If I have taken anything... I restore him fourfold.” to accuse falsely*

The Law required repayment plus 20%.

- **Leviticus 6:5** — When someone has stolen, deceived, or defrauded another:

“He must make full restitution for it and add a fifth of its value to it.”

- **Numbers 5:7** — When someone has wronged another:

“You must confess your sin and make full repayment, **plus an additional 20 percent**, to the person you have wronged.”

- **Leviticus 27:31** —“If a man wishes to redeem part of his tithe, he must add a **fifth** to its value.”

### Summary

The Law required that when someone wronged another person—through theft, fraud, or loss—they were to **repay the full amount plus 20%**. This ensured the victim was made whole and emphasized personal responsibility and justice within the community.

Zacchaeus offers 400%.

This is not legalism — it’s love.

Not obligation — but overflow.

### Teaching point:

Real repentance touches the wallet, the habits, the relationships, and the lifestyle.

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### 3. Jesus Declares Salvation (v.9)

*“This day is salvation come to this house...”*

Jesus doesn’t say:

- “He earned salvation.”
- “He proved himself worthy.”
- “He fixed his life first.”

No — Jesus declares salvation because Zacchaeus responded to grace with faith.

*“He also is a son of Abraham.”*

This means:

- he belongs to the covenant family
- he is restored spiritually
- he is accepted by God

- Jesus calls him “a son of Abraham,” reconnecting a social outcast to covenant grace.

### Teaching Point:

Faith, not ancestry or morality, makes someone a true child of God.

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#### 4. Jesus States His Mission (v.10)

*“For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*

This is the heartbeat of the entire Gospel of Luke.

Jesus:

- **seeks** (He initiates)
- **saves** (He rescues)
- **the lost** (those who cannot save themselves)

### Teaching Point:

Jesus didn’t come to congratulate the righteous — He came to rescue the lost.

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#### ✦ Key Takeaways — Luke 19:1–10

##### 1. Jesus Seeks Before We Seek

Zacchaeus climbed the tree to see Jesus, but Jesus was already coming *for him*.

This shows the heart of the gospel:

God initiates. We respond.

##### 2. No One Is Too Lost for Jesus

Zacchaeus was socially despised, morally compromised, and spiritually distant — yet Jesus chose him.

Grace goes after the unlikely, the unwanted, and the written-off.

##### 3. Jesus Calls Us Personally

Jesus calls Zacchaeus by name.

This is not standard grace — it is personal, intentional, and relational.

#### **4. Salvation Brings Transformation**

Zacchaeus doesn't just feel forgiven — he becomes different.  
He gives generously and makes restitution.  
Real repentance produces visible fruit.

#### **5. Grace Changes What the Law Couldn't**

Years of religious pressure never changed Zacchaeus.  
One encounter with Jesus did.  
Transformation flows from relationship, not rule-keeping.

#### **6. The Crowd Often Misunderstands Grace**

People grumbled when Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house.  
Self-righteousness resents mercy.  
Grace offends those who think they've earned God's favor.

#### **7. Jesus' Mission Is Clear**

"The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

This is the heartbeat of the passage — and the heartbeat of the gospel.  
Jesus doesn't wait for the lost to find Him. He goes after them.

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### **Life Application**

#### **1. Identify Your Tree**

Where do you need to reposition yourself to see Jesus more clearly

- less noise
- less pride
- less crowd pressure

#### **2. Welcome Jesus In**

Jesus still says, "I must stay at your house today."  
Where is He asking for access in your life

### 3. Let Grace Produce Fruit

Repentance is not just confession — it's transformation.

What step of obedience or restitution is God prompting you to take

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#### Discussion Questions for Adults

1. What barriers kept Zacchaeus from seeing Jesus, and what barriers keep us from seeing Him today
2. Why do you think Jesus chose Zacchaeus out of the whole crowd
3. How does the crowd's reaction mirror attitudes we sometimes see in the church
4. What does Zacchaeus' response teach us about genuine repentance
5. Where do you see Jesus "seeking and saving" in your own life story

#### Closing Prayer

"Lord, thank You for seeking us long before we sought You.

Give us the humility of Zacchaeus, the courage to respond, and the willingness to let Your grace transform our lives.

May salvation come to our homes today. In Jesus' name, Amen."