

# Success Can Drive Us Up A Tree

Luke 19:1-10

June 23, 2024

Pastor Art Dunn

## PREVIEW

### SCRIPTURE READING

**Luke 19:1-10 NIV**

#### **Zacchaeus the Tax Collector**

- <sup>1</sup> Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup> A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. <sup>3</sup> He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.
- <sup>5</sup> When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” <sup>6</sup> So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.
- <sup>7</sup> All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”
- <sup>8</sup> 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.”
- <sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

*Opportunity and motive converged with Zaccheus.*

### MAIN IDEA

- Success Can Drive Us Up A Tree...Literally and Figuratively
  - Zaccheus had alienated himself from his people through his achievement, career, promotions, business, decisions, choices, behavior, lifestyle, accomplishments
  - Zaccheus climbed the tree because he couldn't risk being close to the people. He was despised, he was traitor to his people, he compromised his national heritage with the Romans. He was alone because he didn't trust the Jewish people and they didn't trust him.

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- ...And Make Us Vulnerable To God And To People...
  - Vulnerable puts us out in the open for all to see.
  - When a person puts themselves in a position to get a good view of Jesus, it's very likely that Jesus will get a good view of them.
  - Getting what we want often times drives us to God. When we get what we want invariably it doesn't satisfy us.
  - Jesus invited Himself into Zacchaeus's life.
  - Zaccheus's interest in Jesus made others suspect and question his actions.
  - When people start to make spiritual progress sometimes it gets harder before it gets better.
  
- ...And Put Us In A Position To Re-Center Our Lives.
  - Old Testament Scriptures for making right financial wrongs
    - Exodus 22:1, 4-7
      - <sup>1</sup> Whoever steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it must pay back five head of cattle for the ox and four sheep for the sheep.
      - <sup>4</sup> If the stolen animal is found alive in their possession—whether ox or donkey or sheep—they must pay back double.
      - <sup>5</sup> “If anyone grazes their livestock in a field or vineyard and lets them stray and they graze in someone else's field, the offender must make restitution from the best of their own field or vineyard.
      - <sup>6</sup> “If a fire breaks out and spreads into thornbushes so that it burns shocks of grain or standing grain or the whole field, the one who started the fire must make restitution.
      - <sup>7</sup> “If anyone gives a neighbor silver or goods for safekeeping and they are stolen from the neighbor's house, the thief, if caught, must pay back double.
    - Leviticus 6:5
      - <sup>5</sup> They must make restitution in full, add a fifth of the value to it and give it all to the owner on the day they present their guilt offering.
    - Numbers 5:7
      - <sup>7</sup> They must make full restitution for the wrong they have done, add a fifth of the value to it and give it all to the person they have wronged.
  - Zaccheus went over and above the requirements of the law for restitution. Jesus saw Zaccheus's repentance and belief in Him. Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham”.

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- Zaccheus got his life recentered on Jesus and had the needs of his life met.
- We need our lives balanced.
- When our life is out of balance, we are wearing ourselves out. We are not effective or meaningful as God intended us to be.

## CONCLUSION:

Every Sermon Should Have Something To

### ❖ I Learned...

Dealing with people who are lost.

We need to invite ourself into the lives of the lost where they feel safe.

### ❖ I Believe ...

Jesus knows my name and the names of people we know or interact with and I should do this.

Personal contact of knowing people's names is important.

### ❖ I Seek To Do ...

Risk chance of being rejected.

Invite yourself into other people's world(lives) and spend time with them where they are comfortable to encourage and help them on the way to redemption.