

“a son of Abraham”

Luke 19:1-10

Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-4

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.

Zacchaeus

“The term [chief tax collector] is found nowhere else [in the NT], but clearly it meant the head of the local taxing agents. Jericho was near a major trade route and famous for balsam groves. There was much to tax, and Zacchaeus was accordingly quite rich.”

Reformation Study Bible

Zacchaeus

“To finance their great world empire, the Romans levied heavy taxes on all nations under their control. The Jews opposed these taxes because they supported a secular government and its pagan gods, but they were forced to pay.

Tax collectors were among the most unpopular people in Israel.”

Zacchaeus

“Jews by birth, they chose to work for Rome and were considered traitors. Besides, it was common knowledge that tax collectors were making themselves rich by gouging their fellow Jews.”

Zacchaeus

“Zacchaeus is the ultimate of Israel’s outcasts, not just a hated tax collector, but a chief tax collector, the worst among the worst.”

**Zondervan Illustrated Bible Background
Commentary**

“I must stay at your house today.”

Luke 19:5-7

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.”

“I must stay at your house today.”

“This [v. 5] was worded as a mandate, not a request. It is the only place in all the Gospels where Jesus invited Himself to be someone’s guest.”

MacArthur NIV 2011 Study Bible

“I must stay at your house today.”

Luke 5:29-30

29 Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. **30** But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”

“I must stay at your house today.”

“Jesus’ stay with the tax collector is a necessity because it pictures what his ministry is all about-to lead to God others those have given up on, to call those who, like the tax collector Levi, need to repent. His mission is to reclaim the prodigals and justify the humble.”

Darrell Bock

“I must stay at your house today.”

“Table fellowship carried great social significance in the ancient world. For a religious-minded Pharisee to eat with a notorious sinner brought ceremonial defilement and social ostracism.”

**Zondervan Illustrated Bible Background
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Luke 19:8-10

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 the lost.”

“a son of Abraham”

“Because of his new relationship with God, he will do two things: Half of his possessions will now go to the poor, and those he has wronged will receive restitution at four times the amount taken. He is aware of his sins and desires to right the wrongs he has done.”

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“Normal restitution in the OT for a wrong committed as to add one-fifth or 20 percent to the value of the goods lost. The penalty or outright theft of an animal was much more severe, requiring restitution of four or five times... Zacchaes treats his ill-gotten wealth as theft and promises a full fourfold retituion.”

“a son of Abraham”

Matthew 9:12-13

12 On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. **13** But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

“a son of Abraham”

Luke 18:26-27

26 Those who heard this asked, “Who then can be saved?” **27** Jesus replied, “What is impossible with men is possible with God.”

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Galatians 3:7

**Understand, then, that
those who believe are
children of Abraham.**

Applications

- **No one, no matter what a wicked sinner they are, is outside the saving grace of Christ.**
- **Salvation will lead to action**
- **When He calls, you will follow!**

Final Thoughts

“Though the story of Zacchaeus is often viewed as a cute children’s story, it is in fact one of the most important stories in the whole Bible, since it reveals the heart of Jesus’ mission and God’s purpose for the world. Jesus came quintessentially to “seek and to save what is lost.” Those who love God will share his passion to bring his wondrous salvation to a lost world.”

Final Thoughts

James 2:14-17

14 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? **15** Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food.

16 If one of you says to him,
“Go, I wish you well; keep
warm and well fed,” but does
nothing about his physical
needs, what good is it? **17** In
the same way, faith by itself,
if it is not accompanied by
action, is dead.

Final Thoughts

Galatians 3:28-29

28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.