

“ZACCHEUS”

Text: Luke 19:1-10
Subject: How Grace Is Undeserved And Unexpected

Introduction

1. Luke alone records this meeting of Jesus and Zaccheus.
2. Jesus was passing through Jericho on His way to Jerusalem (“to be put to death and rise again” Luke 18:33)
3. Many onlookers “understood none of the things Jesus said” concerning His suffering, death and resurrection. (Luke 18:34)
4. And on this day, one man would get more than he bargained for.

Questions:

- #1. Ever feel undeserving of the grace of God?
- #2. Ever feel that God cannot forgive you of every sin?
- #3. Ever feel that your past sins will haunt you throughout your lifetime?
- #4. Ever wonder if Jesus knows who you are, where you are and what you need?
- #5. Ever doubt that Jesus has the power to change what needs to be changed in you?

(Some Absolutes That Stand Out)

◆ For Someone Undeserving And Unexpected

I. The Character Of Zaccheus (v. 1,2)

“And, behold, there was a man named Zaccheus, which was the chief among the Publicans, and he was rich.” (v.2)

Fact: The name “Zaccheus” in Hebrew means (“pure” or righteous one”).

Fact: Zaccheus presided over other tax-gatherers (he was supervisor of the tax collectors).

Fact: No one admired Zaccheus the Publican.

(Why Not?)

- #1. He was collecting taxes of his own people and transmitting them to the Roman Government.
- #2. The Jews hated to be taxed by Rome (they were looking for a messiah to deliver them from the power of Rome.)
- #3. Zaccheus was looked upon as a traitor to his own people.
- #4. The position of tax collector was sold to the person who offered the most money for it.
- #5. The chief tax collector would often impose heavy taxes to reimburse himself for what he had paid for his position.
- #6. Publicans were notorious for collecting more taxes than were required.
- #7. Zaccheus had become wealthy by oppressing his own people.

(Think Of It)

1. He is despised and rejected by his own Jewish people.
2. He is wealthy (but avoided) because of his tax occupation.
3. He is an outcast to many, but an object of love and grace in the eyes of Jesus. (Pg. 1 of 3)

Fact: Zaccheus was O.K. on the outside, but hurting on the inside. (are you?)

Fact: Zaccheus was O.K. in the material world, but lacking in spiritual things. (are you?)

Fact: Zaccheus was seemingly O.K. (but something was missing).

II. The Curiosity Of Zaccheus (v. 3,4)

“And he sought to see Jesus, who he was but could not for the press”. (v.3)

“And he ran before and climbed up into a sycamore tree”. (v.4)

Fact: Jesus is passing this way for the final time.

Fact: The crowd is pressing upon this Jesus.

Fact: Zaccheus is too small to press through.

(And Zaccheus Has A Choice)

#1. Allow his obstacles to be a tomb stone (or)

#2. Allow his obstacles to be a stepping stone.

(And We All Have The Same Choice)

#1. Allow our obstacles and pain to dig our grave (or)

#2. Allow our obstacles and pain to build a ladder to God.

(Zaccheus Could Have Said:)

“My past history of stealing tax money is too much for Jesus to forgive”

“My past neglect of spiritual things is too much for Jesus to deal with”

“My past pain, rejection and abuse is too much for Jesus to overcome”

(What Am I Saying?)

#1. That everybody has obstacles to overcome!

#2. That each of us have a choice in our response!

#3. That the choice we make will determine our outcome!

Question: What did Zaccheus do?

Answer: He ran ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree.

Question: What was the sycamore tree?

Answer: A wild fig tree. (that was very leafy)

Question: Why this tree?

Answer: Because Zaccheus thought that he could see Jesus (without himself being seen)

Fact: Zaccheus thought he could escape the sight of Jesus. (but he couldn't)

Fact: And you cannot escape the sight, the love and the attention of this Jesus!!!

III. The Calling Of Zaccheus (v.5)

“Jesus came to the place, looked up, saw him and said, Zaccheus, make haste and come down; for today I must abide at thy house”. (v.5)

(What A Call From God)

#1. It Was A Personal Call

Fact: Jesus knew Zaccheus by name.

Fact: And Jesus knows you by name.

#2. It Was An Urgent Call

“Make haste” means: come down now!

Fact: There was no halting between 2 opinions.

Fact: Zaccheus responded quickly to the call of Jesus.

#3. It Was A Humbling Call

“Come down” Means: come down!

“Down” from high thoughts of self importance!

“Down” from fear of what others might think!

“Down” from all doubt that Jesus can change me!

“Down” from the snare of remaining unchanged!

#4. It Was An Affectionate Call

“I must abide at your house”. (v.5)

Fact: Jericho was one of the cities of the priests.

Fact: And Jesus is willing to bypass all the righteous looking religious people (just to spend time with a man so undeserving).

#5. It Was An Accepted Call

“And he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully” (v.6)

Fact: Jesus didn’t have to wait for Zaccheus!

◆ Don’t make Jesus wait for you!!!

◆ Obey the call of God.....

#1....To receive this Divine Compassion of Jesus.

#2....To abandon every sin that is a wall between you and Jesus.

IV. The Changing Of Zaccheus (v.8-10)

(v.8) “I will restore him fourfold”

(v.9) “This day is salvation come to this house”

(v.10) “For the Son of Man is come, to do again what He did then”

(Oh What A Change)

◆ In (v.4) Zaccheus runs from this Jesus

◆ In (v.6) Zaccheus runs into the arms of Jesus

Totally Undeserved!

Totally Unexpected!!

Totally Transforming!!!

AMEN!

Pastor Bill Kirk

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