



# Tell me the stories of Jesus

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## Small group questions

*A short man finds huge hope – Luke 19:1-10*

Leaders – if the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer – please contact the preacher!

1. Which story of Jesus is your favourite?

### Read Genesis 15:1-6

2. What does it mean to be credited with righteousness? On what grounds was Abraham credited with righteousness?
3. What does it mean to be a 'son of Abraham'? (You might like to look also at Gal 3:6-9)

### Read Luke 19:1-6

4. What does Luke tell us about Zacchaeus? From your wider knowledge of that society, what might life have been like for him?
5. How would Jesus actions have been surprising for Zacchaeus and the crowd?
6. Why is the word 'must' important in this context? (See also Lk 2:49; 9:22; Lk 24:44)
7. "Zacchaeus looked for Jesus...and Jesus found him." Discuss.

### Read Luke 19:7-10

8. What does the crowd make of Jesus' interaction with Zacchaeus?
9. How might Lk ch 15 have been instructive for them?
10. How does Zacchaeus demonstrate that Jesus has changed his heart?
11. What is Jesus' verdict on Zacchaeus?
12. How does this tie in to Jesus' mission (v10)

*Spend some time thanking God for finding you and declaring you righteous!*

## Zacchaeus – Little man, Big problem – Luke 19v1-10

**Opener: Tell me the stories of Jesus. What's your favourite story of Jesus? (about him or told by him)**

**Nana and Grandad, great storytellers** - windows that showed more than humour and a glimpse of the old days. They showed what was important to N & G and showed what they were like: breadwinner at 12; compassion

Same with these 'stories of Jesus'; not just entertaining, they show us who Jesus is: his passion and priorities

**Context:** Since half way through Luke's Gospel, Js has been 'on the way' to Jerusalem. Many stories, parables; people Jesus met. We've gotten to know Js well: his character and his passions.

Next stop on the way is Jericho. Jericho to Jerusalem is like from here (Tewantin) to Pomona. A bit longer on foot than by car. And Jesus meets a little man with a big problem.

We see a man who looked for Jesus...and Jesus found him.

We see a sinner in need of repentance...and Jesus changed him

**Part One: v1-6 – A man looked for Jesus...and Jesus found him**

<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 being a short man he could not, because of 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.

**Illustration: Seven years old, Mum took me to see the Queen. What if she had invited herself to our for lunch?** Absurd!

Queen doesn't know us; we're nobodies!

Very busy lady, her day all mapped out

Mum would have fainted

**Application:** Jesus knew Zacchaeus: name/ job/ friendlessness/ sinner/ lost = destroyed = far from God

Jesus doesn't do chance encounters (MUST)

Zacc hurried down and welcomed him gladly (received him joyfully)

**This Jesus seeks out the lost!** – It's his doing. Enterprising Zacc, but Jesus MUST; already on his TO DO list.

Jericho: an important city. Obviously rebuilt since the Israelites marched around it and blew their trumpets! On a trade route, so lots of passing traders to tax; Tree plantations – a well-to-do place...good pickings if you were a tax collector...especially a chief tax collector. [expl system – what did people think of tax collectors?] And so we meet Zacchaeus, the man who wants to find Jesus. A little man with a big problem...

Picture the scene...

The indignity, the ridicule, underline the desire...

Jesus calls Zacchaeus. Public gesture of friendship

Remain...implies a stay for a meal, not a just pop in

MUST – divine necessity in Luke's Gospel

Came down at once

Welcomed him gladly

**Part two: v7-10 – We see a sinner in need of repentance...and Jesus changed him**

<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 what was lost."

**Illustration:** John Newton – From Slave trader to slave emancipator  
A key person in insisting that the chaplain on the First Fleet was someone who would preach not religion but the gospel, the gospel that saves sinners, that saved a wretch like me...

**Application:**

Have you found Jesus yet? If not, seek him while he may be found. He's not far away from each one of us. You will find him

when you seek him with all your heart. One day, you may find that Jesus MUST stay at your place today, as he opens your eyes to understand and find him.

Have you believed? Received? Welcomed? If not, what is stopping you?

If yes, rejoice! You are a Son/daughter of Abraham. Found. Righteous. Near to God.

Michael V. – "Not a ceremony or a building that makes us right with God; it's only Jesus."

Have you repented? What needs to change, as you belong to Jesus?

Jesus' gesture of friendship not lost on the crowd  
V7 muttering – everyone knows who Zacc is – a sinner  
To be the guest of a sinful man is to be friends with him  
To be entertained at his house is almost as bad as receiving stolen goods.

They didn't get the memo fr ch 15: more rejoicing in heaven...

Luke doesn't say, but I think there's a gap between v7 and v8, based on the reference to 'this house' in v9. Time for Jesus and Zacc to share a meal and have a good talk  
What we do know is v8: Zacc repents [unpack]  
Heartfelt and generous repentance!

Jesus' verdict: salvation

Son of Abraham (righteous)

This is new for Zacc! TODAY salvation...Abraham's son  
What did Jesus preach? The kingdom of God is near.

**Repent** and **believe** the good news.

The king of God's kingdom has come to Jericho to meet a sinner.

The sinner repents and is declared a son of Abraham = a righteous man. How was Abraham declared righteous?  
He believed God's promise, and God credited it to him as r/ness

For the Son of Man (= Jesus) came to seek and to save what was lost.