

Zaccheus – the Diligent Seeker of Jesus

Luke 19:1-10

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- I. Introduction
 - a. Some call him the shortest man in the Bible, but there were a couple who were probably shorter
 - i. Knee-high Miah -
 - ii. Bildad the Shoe-height – Job 2:11
 - b. Zaccheus was searching for Jesus – v. 2-3
- II. Key thought – His diligence in seeking for Jesus was reward
- III. Zaccheus' diligent search was rewarded
 - a. In spite of the perils of wealth – v. 2
 - i. How hard it is for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven
 - ii. They tend to trust in uncertain riches instead of in the one who gives all things richly to enjoy
 - iii. They may store up treasure in heaven instead of on earth and have their heart in the wrong place
 - iv. They may serve mammon rather than God
 - v. They may gain the world, but lose their souls
 - vi. That might have been the end of Zaccheus, but there was something that he was seeking even more diligently than wealth – Jesus Christ
 - b. In spite of his demoralizing occupation – v. 2
 - i. There is no occupation that does not have its own temptations to sin, but some are filled with them
 - ii. He was not just a tax-collector, but a chief tax-collector
 1. Overseeing a
 - iii. He had to deal with a multitude of temptations in his work
 1. To enrich himself by defrauding others
 2. To use his position with the Roman authorities to harm his enemies
 3. To compromise his Jewish obligations in his close dealings with the Gentiles
 4. To be corrupted by power and inflated with pride
 5. To overlook the injustices of his subordinates or his superiors or join in them
 - c. Over his bad reputation – v. 5-7
 - i. The whole city viewed him that way
 - ii. They were scandalized when Jesus announced his plans to visit Zaccheus' home
 - iii. Sometimes people have a hard time overcoming a bad reputation
 - iv. He stands and declares his intentions to do what is right
 - v. In spite of what everyone may think about him

- d. In spite of the obstacles in his way – v. 3-4
 - i. Large crowd
 - ii. Short
 - iii. Indignity
 - e. By gaining unexpected blessings – v. 5-6
 - i. Not just a glimpse of Jesus, a word from him
 - ii. Not just finding out who he is, being recognized and known by him
 - iii. Jesus called him by name
 - 1. Dined with him
 - f. By receiving salvation – v. 8-10
 - i. He states his true repentance
 - ii. This day salvation has come to this house
 - 1. He was a son of Abraham, not a Gentile
 - 2. But he was also proven to be an Israelite indeed, and a child of Abraham by demonstrating the faith of Abraham
- IV. What would not have been rewarded
- a. Indifference
 - b. Half-hearted effort
 - c. Impulsiveness
 - d. Only diligence in seeking Christ is assured a reward – Heb. 11:6
- V. Our diligent search will be rewarded as well
- a. In spite of any obstacles
 - i. Of position
 - ii. Of reputation
 - iii. Of sin
 - iv. Of circumstance
 - b. We know our diligent search will be rewarded
 - i. For the same reason Zaccheus was
 - ii. The one we are seeking desires to be found
 - c. If God truly wanted nothing to do with us
 - i. We would never even come close to finding him
 - ii. No matter what we did
 - iii. The fact is he desires to be found by us
- VI. Conclusion
- a. The other diligent seeker
 - i. Jesus Christ – v 10
 - ii. While Zaccheus was searching for Jesus
 - iii. Jesus was searching for Zaccheus
 - iv. I must stay at your house today
 - b. He is waiting to reward those who seek for him beyond any expectation
 - c. And he has already put forth infinitely more effort in seeking us than we will ever spend in seeking Him
 - i. There is no more diligent seeker than Jesus Christ
 - ii. No one has
 - 1. travelled farther

2. given up more
 3. searched longer
 4. suffered more
 5. endured more indignity or insult
 6. faced greater opposition
- iii. Than Jesus in His efforts to seek and save the lost
- d. He seeks and saves the lost
 - i. We, the lost, seek Him and are saved by Him
 - ii. He who seeks, finds
- e. Invitation
 - i. Are you looking for Jesus?
 - ii. Have you been found by Him?