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

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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?