

Beyond Sunday

For groups, friends, families, couples, or individuals to reflect on the message you heard this Sunday, 9/10.

1. Read Luke 19:1-10. What was the significance of being a tax collector in Israel during this time? Why were they so universally hated?
2. "Tax collectors and sinners" was the catch-all phrase used in New Testament times to describe the worst society had to offer. Religious people were often angry at Jesus for hanging out with people like this. What do you think would be the 21st century equivalent of the "tax collectors and sinners" Jesus seemed to love? Imagine Jesus among modern day "tax collectors." Describe how you think He would relate to them?
3. Church people sometimes worry that, "If I accept and love this person, am I endorsing their lifestyle?" Jesus never seemed to worry about that. He seemed to draw people to himself--then in the context of loving relationship, begin sorting out lifestyle. Have you ever felt this tension? What can Jesus teach us about how to live in this regard?
4. Jesus' loving stance towards Zacchaeus is repeated many times in the New Testament. Name some other people in the New Testament that the religious folk might have shunned but that Jesus seemed to have special love for? Have you ever walked out something similar? What was it like? What did it bring up for you?
5. Describe how Zacchaeus' life changed after Jesus loved him. Does it seem that Zacchaeus' life change was a **result of** Jesus' love or the **cause of** Jesus' love? Can you draw any principles from this to describe the relationship of Jesus' saving love and how our lifestyles begin to conform to His ways?
6. There's a saying, "Christians are the only fishermen on earth that try to clean their fish before they catch them." What do you think it means? How can you apply the truth of this passage to your heart and to your life today?

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9.10.17

Love EVERYONE,
ALWAYS.

Love Everyone, Always

For the Son of Man came **to seek** and **save the lost**.

Luke 19:10

Jesus entered Jericho and was **passing through**. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a **chief tax collector** and **was wealthy**. **He wanted to see who Jesus was**, but because **he was short he could not see over the crowd**. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

Luke 19:1-4

Lost people matter to God. The character of God (and his followers) is to prioritize going on a relentless search to find and restore lost people. Jesus calls people **lost** because he wants to find them. If God didn't want them found, they wouldn't be called lost, but forgotten.

Why was Zacchaeus Lost?

1. He was a chief tax collector: He was a sinner

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Romans 3:23

2. He was wealthy: He was prideful

Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!”

Luke 18:24

3. He was short: He had challenging life circumstances

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

John 9:1-3

4. He could not see over the crowd: Religious people got in the way

...You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces.

Matthew 23:13b

When Jesus **reached the spot, he looked up** and said to him, “**Zacchaeus**, come down immediately. **I must stay** at your house today.” So he came down at once and welcomed him **gladly**.

Luke 19:5-6

All the people saw this and **began to mutter**, “He has gone **to be the guest of** a sinner.” 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.” Jesus said to him, “**Today salvation has come to this house**, because this man, too, is a **son of Abraham**. **For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.**”

Luke 19:7-10

“Love is the mark Christ gave Christians to wear before the world. Only with this mark may the world know that Christians are indeed Christians and that Jesus was sent by the Father.”

—Francis Shaeffer, *The Mark of a Christian*

Throughout your 168 waking hours this week, ask Jesus to **OPEN YOUR EYES TO SEE** the “Zacchaeuses” around you — starting with the one staring back at you in the mirror. Then, ask Jesus to **BREAK YOUR HEART** for the “Zacchaeuses” around you — again, starting with the one staring back at you in the mirror.