

1 | Zacchaeus sought Jesus.

³And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. ⁴So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. **LUKE 19:3,4**

When we seek something earnestly, we do everything we can to find what we are looking for. That's what Zacchaeus did. He was so determined to know Jesus that he climbed a tree just to see Him. Like Zacchaeus, there are so many things we can do as we seek God. What are some of the things you did to have a deeper knowledge of God? What does Deuteronomy 4:29 say about how we should seek Him?

2 | Jesus initiated an encounter with Zacchaeus.

And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." **LUKE 19:5**

In Jewish culture, eating with a person in his home means a sort of acceptance. Publicly declaring His intention to eat with a tax collector like Zacchaeus speaks a lot about how Jesus sees him. As we welcome Jesus in our lives, He reveals Himself to us and intends to stay in our hearts. But sometimes, our past and the people who know of it might doubt our relationship with Jesus, just like how the people grumbled when they saw that Jesus went into Zacchaeus's house (Luke 19:7). Was there a time you thought you weren't worthy to receive Jesus? How have you learned to seek God in spite of other's opinions?

3 | Jesus changed Zacchaeus's heart and brought salvation to his house.

⁸And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." ⁹And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house . . ." **LUKE 19:8,9**

Jesus' action elicited a sincere response from Zacchaeus to turn his back from his old ways. He gained salvation not by his good works but by receiving Jesus in his heart. Like him, it is never too late for us to allow Jesus' grace, love, and acceptance to set our hearts straight. What does Romans 2:4 say about God's kindness to us? What are some of the things you let go of to follow Jesus? How has His grace enabled you to minister to others?

APPLICATION

- What can you do to learn more about Jesus? How can you help others seek Him more?
- How has the saving love of Christ changed you from the inside out? Who can you share your testimony to this week?
- How can you help other people live a life pleasing to God? Commit to approach them this week to encourage them.