

LITTLE MAN BIG LESSON

(Luke 19:1-10)

Introduction:

1. This afternoon we will be reviewing the budget of the Jamestown Assembly for 2017, so I thought it would be good to do a character study. I thought it would be especially appropriate to study the character Zacchaeus; a tax collector who had an encounter with the Lord.
2. Let us consider who Zacchaeus was, what he did, and what we can learn from him.

Discussion:

I. Who he was.

- A. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector (v2).
 1. Tax collectors were among the most hated of people. They were Jews who worked for the Romans to collect the hated taxes. Because of this, they were considered traitors. The Romans were smart to use local people to collect their taxes; it kept their hands clean.
 2. It also guaranteed that they would get their money. How? The local tax collectors were allowed to charge whatever they wanted to as long as Rome got their money. Because of this the tax collectors were hated because they were cheats and thieves, who enriched themselves on the backs of their own people.
 3. Zacchaeus was a “chief” tax collector which indicates he collected taxes from other tax collectors who worked under him. Because of this he would have been very wealthy and very despised.
- B. Zacchaeus’ name ironically means “pure”.
- C. Zacchaeus was a man of short stature (v3)

II. What he did.

- A. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus...really wanted to see Him.
 1. He ran ahead of the crowds walking with Jesus because he was too short to see over them (v3) and they would not have politely allowed him through (filthy tax collector). Men did not and do not run in polite society (cp. Luke 15:20). Yet, Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus so badly that he was willing to run (v4).
 2. He climbed a tree! HE CLIMBED A TREE...IN A ROBE (v4)!!
- B. Jesus saw Zacchaeus and invited Himself to his house (v5)!!
- C. He obeyed Jesus and “made haste” and had Jesus to his house. With Jesus in his house, Zacchaeus declares his righteous behavior regarding his job (more than likely a changed behavior).
 1. Zacchaeus says he will give half of his goods to the poor (no command to do so in the Law of Moses).
 2. Zacchaeus says that if he defrauds anyone he will repay fourfold. This was beyond what the Law required (Num. 5:6, 7 vs. Ex. 22:1).
 3. Zacchaeus was restored to Israel and God (vv 9, 10).

III. What we can learn from him.

- A. People do what they want to do. Desire, zeal, and passion drive us wherever we go.
 1. Matt. 22:37-40 will see us to heaven.
 2. 1 John 2:15-17 is a warning to not be drawn away to condemnation (cp. Prov. 24:11).
- B. True repentance bears fruit.
 1. It is not enough to “show up” (Matt. 3:7-10).
 2. A serving Lord rules a serving people (John 13:1-17; esp. v17).
- C. To be known by Jesus we too must “go out on a limb”.
 1. We are “known” by God when we come to “know” Him (Gal. 4:9; cp. Hos 4:6).

2. When we die to self and humble ourselves we are “seen” by Jesus (Matt. 11:28-30; Is. 57:15).
- D. Restoration is possible for all who will come to Jesus and bear the fruit of repentance.

Conclusion:

1. A little man (but still taller than Bildad☺) who our Lord used to teach us a big lesson.
2. Let us always have a heart that is willing to do what is unseemly in the world in order to see, and be seen, by our Lord.
3. Invitation.