



Brown Community Group

Discussion Guide

To Know Him Is to Love Him – The Love of Jesus
Luke 19:1-10 – January 9th, 2022

I. Starter Questions:

- Have you ever felt seen in the midst of a crowd? Not necessarily a literal crowd, but think about a time in your life when you felt invisible. How did it make you feel when someone finally acknowledged you?
- What effect did being seen have on your life?

II. Discussion of Scripture:

Luke 19:1-6 (ESV)

¹He entered Jericho and was passing through. ²And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. 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. ⁵And 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.”

Context: Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector. He was corrupt, hated, and known as an abuser of power. He was a well known sinner in the eyes of the Jewish religious leaders and in the community. Zacchaeus had heard about Jesus from others just like the rest of the crowd. He was curious about this man who was performing miracles. Jesus was preaching the Good News. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus with his own eyes so badly that he climbed a tree to do so.

In the midst of a crowd, Jesus looked up and saw Zacchaeus. Throughout his ministry, we see Jesus intentionally single people out to speak with. He did this with Zacchaeus and the effect on his life is profound as we see him come to salvation.

1. What are some characteristics of Christ on display in this account of His ministry?
2. Why do you think Christ chose Zacchaeus?
3. What do you think this said to crowd when Jesus summoned Zacchaeus by name?

Luke 19:7-8 (ESV)

⁷And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” 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.”

Context: The religious leaders, knowing the type of man Zacchaeus was and the message that Christ taught, thought these two should not be spending time together. The crowd thought that Zacchaeus

was too evil to associate with or be drawn to God. We see Christ do this many times throughout scripture. He finds the person that the rest of us may think is too far gone and He draws them to himself.

Christ saw Zacchaeus for who he was, a sinner in need of a savior. We can see the power of salvation in Zacchaeus' life instantly. He commits to righting the wrongs he has committed against the people he has collected taxes from. Zacchaeus is not saved because he decides to be generous and make up for money he has stolen, but that is the effect of Christ's saving power in his life.

- 1. Have you ever been like the crowd, grumbling because you think someone is not getting what they do deserve or getting something they do not deserve? How is this attitude the opposite of who Jesus is?**
- 2. The change we see in Zacchaeus is drastic and immediate. Think about the way your life looked before you knew Jesus and after. What changed in your life? Have you seen God work drastically in the lives of others?**

Luke 19:9-10 (ESV)

⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Context: Zacchaeus is in the midst of a crowd of Jewish people. He is not a member of the Jewish family by birth, but is brought into the family of God because salvation comes to his house. Zacchaeus had faith in God and that is why he is a son of Abraham.

In verse 10, Jesus sums up the purpose of his entire ministry, of his entire life: He came to seek and save the lost. We see him do just that here in the life of Zacchaeus.

- 1. Do you think it is significant that Jesus calls Zacchaeus a "son of Abraham" especially in this crowd of Jewish people? Think about Jesus ministry as a whole. He preached that the Gospel was for all, not just for the Jewish people.**
- 2. Jesus came to seek and save the lost. We cannot do the saving, but we can seek out those who need Jesus and show them the love of Christ. What are some tangible ways you can do this?**

III. Responding in Prayer

- Ask God to show you who needs to be "seen." Who is looking for Jesus around you, but may be shunned or forgotten because of their lifestyle.
- Think through how you can tangibly show the love of Christ to this person and ask God to give you the boldness to do.
- Praise God for his Jesus, that he came to seek and save the lost. The "lost" includes you!