

Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10

by Don Falkos

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Zacchaeus lived in Jericho. He was a tax collector. He worked for the Romans and got rich off of his fellow Jews.

Zacchaeus heard Jesus was coming through Jericho; and Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus. But he was very short; he couldn't see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree.

When Jesus came under the tree in which Zacchaeus was waiting, he stopped. And when Jesus stopped, everyone in the crowd stopped. The noise level dropped to a dull, confused murmur. Jesus looked up at the man sitting on a branch overhanging the road and called him by name, "Zacchaeus, hurry on down here! I want to spend the day with you." Zacchaeus scrambled down out of the tree, greeted Jesus enthusiastically, and led him off toward his home.

The people in the crowd were dismayed. "Doesn't Jesus realize who that man is?" "He's a tax collector!" "He's a sinner!" "He's a traitor – that's what he is!" "And Jesus is going home with him to eat with him?"

After spending much of that day with Jesus, Zacchaeus stood up and said, "Lord, I'm going to give half of everything I have to the poor. And anyone I have ever cheated, I will pay back four times as much."

Jesus said, "The Son of Man has come to seek out and to save those who are lost. Today salvation has come to this household. You, Zacchaeus, are now worthy to be considered a branch in Father Abraham's family tree."