

Jesus and Zacchaeus

(Luke 19:1-10)

Introduction:

1. In Luke 15:1-2 we read about 2 ways in which people responded to Jesus.
 - a. (vs.1) The publicans and sinners approached Jesus to hear Him.
 - b. (vs.2) The Pharisees and scribes murmured because the Lord associated with people they considered to be sinners.
2. Both responses can also be detected in Luke 19:1-10.
3. Let us begin by looking at . . .

Discussion:

- I. THE SETTING FOR WHAT HAPPENED ON THIS OCCASION
 - A. According to Luke 18:31-33, Jesus was traveling to Jerusalem.
 - B. Before reaching Jerusalem, Jesus passed through Jericho.
 - C. Luke tells about the Lord's dealings with 2 men as He passed through Jericho.
 1. (Luke 18:35-43) Jesus gave sight to a blind man.
 2. (Luke 19:1-10) Jesus met Zacchaeus.
- II. THE LORD'S ENCOUNTER WITH ZACCHAEUS
 - A. Zacchaeus is introduced in vs.2.
 1. He "*was the chief among the publicans.*"
 2. "Publicans" [tax collectors] are mentioned many times in the Gospels.
 - a. They were Jews who collected taxes from the Jews for the Romans.
 - b. The Jews despised them because of their involvement with Rome.
 - c. Unfortunately, some publicans took advantage of their fellow Jews.
 3. Luke also informs us that Zacchaeus "*was rich.*"
 - B. (vs.3-4) Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus as He passed through Jericho.
 1. Perhaps he had heard about the Lord's dealings with publicans.
 - a. Jesus had chosen a publican [Matthew] to be an apostle.
 - b. Jesus ate with publicans.
 - c. Jesus said in Matthew 11:19 that He was known as "*a friend of publicans.*"
 2. Although Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, he could not -- he was too short.
 3. To see Jesus he ran ahead of the crowd and climbed up into a tree.
 - C. (vs.5) As Jesus passed by He saw Zacchaeus in the tree, Jesus called Zacchaeus by name, and Jesus invited Himself to his home.
 - D. Notice the joy in vs.6 as Zacchaeus received Jesus -- out of all the people present, the Lord chose to be a guest at the home of a chief publican.

- E. Unfortunately, the other people present murmured (vs.7).
 - 1. They saw Zacchaeus as "*a sinner.*"
 - 2. Publicans are mentioned in connection with "sinners" (Matthew 9:11), "heathens" (Matthew 18:17), and "harlots" (Matthew 21:31).
 - 3. It is true that some publicans took advantage of people, but other publicans had some very good qualities.
 - a. They went to John to be baptized (Luke 3:12-13).
 - b. They heard the Lord's teaching while others rejected it (Luke 7:29-30).
 - 4. Zacchaeus was not one of the evil publicans.
- F. (vs.8) Zacchaeus defended himself.
 - 1. He was generous -- he gave half of his goods to the poor.
 - 2. He restored fourfold anything he had taken wrongfully [the law only required a fifth part -- Numbers 5:7].
- G. (vs.9) Jesus brought salvation to the home of Zacchaeus and identified him as "*a son of Abraham.*"
- H. Jesus revealed His mission in vs.10.

Conclusion:

- 1. Let us make three points of application from our study.
- 2. First, Jesus had a mission -- He has given us a mission (Matthew 28:19-20).
- 3. Second, Jesus identified Zacchaeus as a child of Abraham -- we learn from Galatians 3:27-29 how we become Abraham's children today.
- 4. Third, Zacchaeus was filled with joy when he came in contact with Jesus -- when a person is saved there is reason for joy (Luke 15:10; Acts 8:39).