

I MUST STAY AT YOUR HOUSE TODAY

Luke 19:1-10 AMPC

[1] And [Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through it. [2] And there was a man called Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector, and [he was] rich. [3] And he was trying to see Jesus, which One He was, but he could not on account of the crowd, because he was small in stature. [4] So he ran on ahead and climbed up in a sycamore tree in order to see Him, for He was about to pass that way. [5] And when Jesus reached the place, He looked up and said to him, Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today. [6] So he hurried and came down, and he received and welcomed Him joyfully. [7] And when the people saw it, they all muttered among themselves and indignantly complained, He has gone in to be the guest of and lodge with a man who is devoted to sin and preeminently a sinner. [8] So then Zacchaeus stood up and solemnly declared to the Lord, See, Lord, the half of my goods I [now] give [by way of restoration] to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone out of anything, I [now] restore four times as much. [9] And Jesus said to him, Today is [Messianic and spiritual] salvation come to [all the members of] this household, since Zacchaeus too is a [real spiritual] son of Abraham; [10] For the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.

There is a little Zacchaeus in all of us.

This is a story of inner transformation that comes through spending intimate time with Jesus Christ. So you and I can operate as more productive disciples for Jesus Christ. Let me describe what I mean by, *there is a little Zacchaeus in all of us.*

Zacchaeus is a tax collector. His job is to take from people. Tax collectors impose their will on others at their expense. When a person struggles to find their destiny in their Christ centered identity, they, like Zacchaeus, will find themselves taking from relationships to satisfy and affirm themselves at the expense of that relationship. Their outward presentation acts like it gives and wants friendships but on the inside they want these things to appease their own self image. They seek to help others but secretly are motivated by wanting something in return that makes them feel better about themselves. Zacchaeus was a man of small stature. So when you wrestle with a self image and self worth that is not built on the image of Christ you live among men with a small stature. You feel your input and your worth in team meetings is insignificant. You say things like, "my opinion doesn't matter in this marriage, or this department role". You feel you won't be missed if you die. You don't feel your opinions really count when working with a team of people. This is the Zacchaeus complex. So, how I see myself determines how I relate to others in intimate conflict with them. So we must find our stature in the stature and measure of Christ. We measure ourselves by His stature and not by the opinions of others. For in Him we live, we move and have our being. Zacchaeus was lost amongst the crowd so he had to climb in a tree to see Jesus. When I am unsure of my destiny and self worth, I will find myself lost amongst the many egos and personalities of men and

women. You subjugate your values, your preferences for the sake of others. Your input becomes lost in the crowd. So in order for Zacchaeus to see and function in the crowds and diversities of others he had to exalt himself. This means, I become prideful and arrogant at times in order to feel I am being heard. This comes off as a pushy or the strong exertion of my opinion in order to get others to listen to me. I will find a sliver of doctrinal truth or a sliver of a life principle and exalt my expertise in that area while putting others down. All because I have climbed the tree of Zacchaeus. We must lose our lives in Christ to find our identities in Him. This means mortifying the deeds of the flesh daily in order for humility, courage, and mature love to grow through us for others. We must drown out the voices of the crowd in order to find our true identity in Jesus Christ. It's following the cloud and not the crowd in being led by the voice of the Spirit.

Jesus told Zacchaeus, "I must stay at your house today!" Wow!

When you come down from the stubbornness of your own self driven ideologies and allow Jesus to come into your inner house He then gives you His stature.

Jesus said, "learn of Me for I Am meek and lowly. You then will find rest for your soul."

When Jesus, through prayer and Word obedience, comes into your house you then can use your resources, time, and discipleship to truly grow the Kingdom of God. I say this, because now His INTIMATE LOVE is controlling your resources and time management decisions.

Zacchaeus now is motivated to give like he never gave before. He changes his small thinking to large thinking. He feels better about himself because he allows Jesus to spend time in the dwelling place of his heart. Zacchaeus is now able to drown out the voices and opinions of the crowd that he once lost is self worth from. He gives Jesus total focus for intimate conversations. Zacchaeus no longer derives his self worth from his reputation or his ministry title. He found his self worth in the accommodating of Jesus in his house. He found security where he once had little. He became more productive in kingdom business because he was giving and sharing himself from out of his intimacy with Jesus Christ and not from his insecurities to be affirmed by others.

PRAY:

- Create and increase your intensity for pursuing the Jesus that Zacchaeus knew for confronting ambiguous character attitudes that need attention today.
- Come down and let go of old disturbing relational issues that continually hinder your ability to be led by the Spirit.
- Reach with passion for His presence when you find yourself motivated by the crowd's approval of your ministry and contributions to them.

- Create permanent changes within yourself for consistently accommodating Jesus in your house.
- Make things right with broken relationships that you have tried to operate from a distance because of living in the tree of Zacchaeus.
- Declare and claim God's destiny for yourself and move daily into those areas for fulfillment.
- Find an accountability partner for being mentored and disciplined yourself with the Zacchaeus complex. Practice trusting them for submitting to their counsel for change.
- Guard the word, your prayer time and increase the fear of God in your overall life like never before.
- Release God's resources through you to others for the sake of discipleship. This shows God you valued Jesus coming into your house.

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