



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 29

## JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS

*Jesus came to seek and to save what was lost.*



**MONDAY**

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### **THE STORY: LUKE 18:35-43**

The blind beggar was healed. On his way to Jericho, Jesus passed near a blind man. Some of those present told the man that Jesus was passing by. The blind man called out to Jesus and would not be quieted by those who were leading him. In fact, he shouted all the louder, “Son of David, have mercy on me.” This blind man knew who Jesus was, at least in part. Jesus was the promised descendant of David who would reign on the throne. There would be no other reason to call out His name like this. Why not say “Son of Joseph” or “Jesus of Nazareth”? This man had faith that Jesus was no ordinary man and had the power to heal. After asking Jesus for his sight, Jesus commended his faith and immediately restored the blind man.

### **TALK ABOUT IT:**

What did the man do after he was healed? (He followed Jesus, praising God.)

What was the response of the people there? (When they saw the man healed, they, too, gave praise to God.)

What should our response be when we read this passage? (Our response should be the same as the blind man and the crowd. We should praise God!)

**PRAY:**

Pray prayers of praise. (Parents, help even your smallest children who can speak praise the Lord. If they are too young to come up with the words themselves, have them repeat after you.)



**TUESDAY**

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**THE STORY: LUKE 19:1-8**

Zacchaeus pursued Jesus. After the raising of Lazarus, word spread quickly about Jesus. Not only did this amazing man heal the sick, cast out demons, and perform wonders like the multiplication of the fishes and loaves, He also raised the dead. Israel had been without a prophet for a long time. And Israel was under Roman rule, which they would have understood to be God's judgment upon them. They longed for God to restore them. Now, a descendant of David was performing miracles that could be attributed only to God.

Zacchaeus, a short man from Jericho, wanted to see Jesus, so he climbed a tree. Jesus looked up. He called the tax collector by name and invited Himself to dinner at Zacchaeus' home. Zacchaeus gladly came down from the tree and accepted Christ's invitation. Similarly, Jesus seeks after us. He invites himself into our lives. In a sense, the gospel message is an invitation for us to receive Jesus into our lives. We do this by trusting and believing in what He has said and done.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

How do we know that Zacchaeus believed Jesus? (Zacchaeus gladly accepted Jesus' invitation and immediately gave away half his possessions to the poor. He also agreed to repay four times over, any-one he had cheated.)

Why would it be significant for a tax collector to be giving away money? (The tax

collector's job was to take away money, not give it away. They often took more than the law required so they could keep some for themselves. However, when Jesus came into his life, Zacchaeus agreed to return all the stolen money along with generous interest.)

### **PRAY**

Pray that each member of your family would be so taken with Jesus that they would love Him more than earthly treasure.



## **WEDNESDAY WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?**

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### **THE STORY: LUKE 19:9,10**

Jesus makes the connection to the gospel in this story. Jesus tells us, “Today salvation has come to this house.” We also learn that it was the “Son of Man,” Jesus, who came to “seek and save the lost.”

Though it seems that Zacchaeus was trying to draw near to Jesus, it was in fact Jesus who was coming to save Zacchaeus. This salvation is possible because of what Jesus was about to do on the cross. The evidence of a changed heart in this story is obvious: Zacchaeus gave away half his money.

### **TALK ABOUT IT:**

What did Jesus say had come to Zacchaeus' house? (Jesus said that salvation had come to his house.)

What did Jesus say was the reason? (Jesus didn't say in these verses. Salvation had not come to his house because he gave away half his possessions. Jesus instead said that salvation came to Zacchaeus because Jesus came to seek and to save him.)

**PRAY:**

Ask God to help you remember that we can not earn heaven by the good things we do. Ask God to help you understand and believe in Jesus. Then you will do good things as a result of a changed heart.



**THURSDAY**

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**THE STORY: LUKE 19:11**

The people thought the kingdom was about to come. After Zacchaeus came down from the tree and repented, the people were amazed. Not only did Jesus do physical miracles, but he was also able to change the hearts of men. Even tax collectors were giving back to those they had defrauded. Tax collectors collaborated with the Romans and were often considered traitors. Here the people saw a tax collector turn away from his Roman collaboration and turn back to the people of Israel. The people thought, for sure, the kingdom of God was going to appear at once.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

Why do you think the people thought the kingdom was about to come? (So many miracles and wonders had taken place that had not taken place for hundreds of years. The people would have thought, “What else could this be, but the restoration of the kingdom?” They knew it would take a miracle worker to bring the deliverance they needed, and now one was among them.)

How was Jesus’ kingdom different than the one the people expected? (Jesus came to die, and to defeat sin and death. They thought He was coming to defeat Rome and restore the fortunes, fame, and power of Israel.)

How can we sometimes be like the people of Israel, wanting Jesus to be king

over some kind of earthly kingdom? (Rather than seek the Lord for heavenly treasure, we can place our desires on earthly treasure. Rather than praying for earthly riches, we should pray for heavenly riches. Rather than pray for earthly accomplishment, we should ask for grace for eternal accomplishment.)

**PRAY:**

Ask God to help each person in your family seek heavenly gain over earthly gain.



**FRIDAY  
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

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**THE STORY: ISAIAH 11:1-10**

Jesus is the banner that will bring all the nations to Himself. He is the one who will bring an end to the hostility of the curse. Jesus, a descendant of Jesse, will bring rest to the people. Paul attributes this passage to Christ in Romans 15:12.

**TALK ABOUT IT:**

What does it mean that an infant will play near the nest of a poisonous snake? (In creation, prior to the fall, there was no hostility between man and the animals. In heaven, there will be no hostility, no sickness, no dying. God will recreate the earth, removing the curse.)

Will there be animals in heaven? (The Scripture passage refers to animals in heaven. Some think this is merely figurative language, but it is safe to assume that the same amazing creation that we now have will be restored when Jesus makes the new earth and comes to live with men.)

**PRAY:**

It is good to pray for the return of Christ and the second coming. Pray with your family for Jesus to return, remove the curse, and restore the original beauty of His creation that was tainted by sin.