

Easter Series: Death Could Not Hold Him
Rescue Mission
Luke 19:1-10

Last week we looked at three parables, three stories that Jesus told that described the lengths to which people go to find the valuable things that are lost. This week, I want to look at a real life story, a person who was the beneficiary of Jesus' rescue mission to seek and to save that which was lost. Jesus told those stories while in the company of tax collectors and sinners and in today's text, Luke gives us a front row seat to the impact Jesus had on one such tax collector, a man named Zacchaeus.

1. Respond quickly when Jesus comes to you.
2. Receive joyfully when Jesus calls to you.
3. Repent generously when Jesus converts you.

Zacchaeus climbed a tree in order to see Jesus. Jesus hung on a tree in order to save Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus did everything he could to see, know, and obey Jesus. Jesus did everything necessary to make it possible for us to do the same. Respond when Jesus comes. Receive when Jesus calls. Repent when Jesus converts. Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus changed him and readied him for the kingdom to come. Your encounter with Jesus can change you for the glory of Christ and His coming kingdom.

Reflection

How well-positioned are you to see Jesus? Do you need to move in some way (physically, socially, spiritually) in order to get a better view of Jesus? What evidence of repentance do you see in Zacchaeus? What evidence of repentance was present at your conversion? Do you think Zacchaeus cared that the crowd disapproved of Jesus' fellowship with him? What peer pressures do you face when it comes to following Jesus more intentionally or loving Jesus more intimately? Do you ever indict Jesus' mercy or diminish His ability to forgive by judging someone to be unworthy of Jesus' rescue mission? If so, what tangible steps can you take to demonstrate repentance of such thoughts?