

“How to Make a Short Man Tall”

Luke 19:1-10

C.I.T.—Jesus wanted to extend His grace to Zacchaeus.

C.I.S.—Jesus wants to extend His grace to you.

Purpose—I want people to accept His grace in their lives.

Introduction—**Ephesians 2:8-9**—Grace and faith

I. A Receptive Heart

- a. Setting—Jesus traveling through Jericho
- b. Zacchaeus—His description
 - i. Jew—Jewish Name
 - ii. Chief Tax Collector
 1. Roman would employ local citizens to collect taxes.
 2. In this case, he seemed to be a manager of multiple tax collectors within the city of Jericho
 - iii. Rich
 1. He would have benefited from the subordinate tax collectors.
 2. They were notorious for preying upon their fellow countrymen to make themselves wealthy.
 3. Typically, the rich were viewed negatively in the Bible and society
- c. Zacchaeus—His determination
 - i. Seeking to see who Jesus was
 1. Desire and intentionality
 2. He had heard stories of Jesus, possibly the story of the healing of the blind beggar.
 3. He wanted to see this famous person.
 4. But it was more—to see has a literal and a figurative meaning—to know or understand
 5. Others wanted to see Jesus for his fame or for his miracle working, but Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus to see who He was.
 - ii. The Crowd provided an obstacle
 1. Short—could refer to his stature.
 2. Rich people can find a way to get good seats.
 3. It could have referred to his status.
 4. Jews hated tax collectors, they were viewed as traitors and the scum of the earth, as sinners.
 5. It could have been that the crowd would not let him see Jesus.
 - iii. He demeans himself to see Jesus.
 1. Runs—wealthy men did not run, period, that is why when the father runs to embrace the prodigal son, it would have been scandalous.
 2. If they don’t run, they sure don’t climb up into trees.
 - iv. Zacchaeus was determined to see Jesus no matter what.
- d. Zacchaeus—His delight
 - i. Jesus is surrounded by a crowd of followers.
 - ii. But he stops at only one man, Zacchaeus.
 - iii. He calls only one man’s name, Zacchaeus.
- e. Illus.—Parable of the Sower—only the receptive
- f. Application
 - i. Why are you here today?
 - ii. Are you looking to see Jesus?
 - iii. Have you already decided to reject Jesus?

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- iv. You will get out of today what you expect.
- g. You must have a receptive heart to receive grace.

II. **A Responsive Heart**

- a. Jesus calls Him by name.
 - i. Zacchaeus wanted to “see” Jesus, but Jesus “saw” him first.
 - ii. This reveals a previous knowledge that Jesus had about Zacchaeus.
 - iii. Do you think he knew Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector? A rich man? A “sinner?”
 - iv. I believe he knew all those things, and yet, he still came to the tree.
- b. Jesus calls Him to relationship.
 - i. It is necessary...--Divine necessity, action in line with the Divine will of God.
 - ii. For me to abide/dwell
 - 1. Literally he was coming to eat and to spend the night with Zacchaeus
 - 2. Figuratively, when one person had a meal with another and spent the night, a relationship existed.
 - iii. Jesus was inviting Zacchaeus into a relationship with Himself.
- c. Zacchaeus obeyed.
 - i. He came down quickly, enthusiastically.
 - ii. He welcomed-accepted Jesus’ invitation
 - iii. With rejoicing—a word used in the context of the emotional response to salvation.
- d. Illus.—**Rev 3:20**—I stand at the door and knock
- e. Application
 - i. The Holy Spirit is “knocking” on the door of your heart.
 - ii. You must decide to answer it or not
 - iii. Receiving grace hinges on your response
- f. You must have a responsive heart to obtain grace from God.

III. **A Redeemed Heart**

- a. The spiritual leaders grumbled about Jesus fellowshiping with a “sinner.”
 - i. They were bashing the character of Jesus and Zacchaeus.
 - ii. He didn’t fit their model of righteousness and value in society.
 - iii. Jesus didn’t care about his status in society, he cared about his heart.
- b. Zacchaeus proved his status.
 - i. He stood up proudly, as opposed to climbing a tree—his status had changed
 - ii. He revealed that he had a changed heart by his charity and undoing the sinfulness he had done.
 - iii. A short man had been made tall.
- c. Jesus proved his status.
 - i. This is exactly what Jesus wanted.
 - ii. Salvation had come.
 - iii. He came to save the lost and dying.
- d. Illus.—Gerasene Demoniac
- e. Application
 - i. When we respond to His grace with faith, Jesus does a miracle.
 - ii. In fact, this is Jesus’ priority: to change lives through extending grace.
- f. When your heart is receptive and responsive, it will be redeemed.

Conclusion

- **Romans 6:23**

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- We must receive the gift of eternal life.
- The only things keeping grace out is you.
- Is your heart receptive/responsive?
- Will you pray with me?

Ephesians 2:8 For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift--
⁹ not from works, so that no one can boast. (Eph. 2:8 CSB17)

Revelation 3:20 See! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. (Rev. 3:20 CSB17)

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Rom. 6:23 CSB17)