

Jesus and Zacchaeus

Reading the Text

- **Luke 19:1-4** – Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. ²There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was one of the most influential Jews in the Roman tax-collecting business, and he had become very rich. ³He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowds. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree beside the road, so he could watch from there.
- **Luke 19:5** – When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! For I must be a guest in your home today."
- **Luke 19:6-7** – Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. ⁷But the crowds were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled.
- **Luke 19:8** – Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have overcharged people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"
- **Luke 19:9-10** – Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a son of Abraham. ¹⁰And I, the Son of Man, have come to seek and save those like him who are lost."

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Vocabulary

- **Roman tax-collecting business:** _____
- **Notorious:** famous for something negative
- **Salvation:** being saved from something bad; the Biblical term referring to God saving people from the punishment of their wrongdoing.
- **Son of Man:** A name Jesus used for Himself more than any other name, quoting from the Old Testament. In the book of Daniel 7:13, the "Son of Man" is seen as a person with sovereign (divine or supernatural) authority, a messianic figure (the Savior the Jews have been waiting for), and God's Son

Taken from Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels, IVP

Discussion Questions

1. How do you think Zacchaeus felt when Jesus called him?
2. Do you relate to Zacchaeus? If yes, how so?

3. What do you think of Zachaeus' response to Jesus?

4. If you were Zacchaeus and Jesus noticed you among the crowd and called you by name, how would you respond?

5. Take a moment to reflect on how you would like to respond to Jesus. Write that down.