

## Zacchaeus

---

from sermon by David McWilliams

Zacchaeus was a Jewish tax collector of very small stature physically, Luke 19:1-10. He was a *chief* tax collector, which meant that he was head of others in his business (v. 2).

Tax collectors were despised as *traitors* because they worked in conjunction with the hated Romans who had subjugated the Jewish nation. Furthermore, these tax collectors were allowed to collect **more** than the required taxes and keep the proceeds for themselves, according to Roman law (Lk. 3:12-13). This led to much corruption among these people, adding to their hatred. Under Jewish law these men were viewed as "unclean."

Zacchaeus longed to meet Jesus and heard that He would be passing through Jericho on His way to Jerusalem where He would soon be crucified for the sins of the world. Because of Jesus' love for the souls of men, He willingly associated with the social outcasts of His day, like the tax collectors and harlots (Matt. 21:31-32). He even chose Levi to be one of His apostles (Lk. 5:27-32). And on this occasion, Zacchaeus climbed a sycamore tree in order to see the Son of God. He was rewarded with the words of Jesus: "*Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house*" (Lk. 19:5).

Zacchaeus quickly came down from the tree and received Jesus into his house joyfully (v. 6). Once at his house and spending time with the Lord, Zacchaeus boldly offered to make his life right with God. He offered to give 1/2 of his possessions to the poor, and if he had taken anything falsely, then he would restore it fourfold (v. 8)! Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation (2 Cor. 7:10).

Jesus proclaimed to him: "*Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost*" (Lk. 19:10).

Today, Jesus still seeks to save the lost and everyone is a candidate to be saved. Jesus seeks you -- but you must seek Jesus in order to find Him, Matthew 7:7-8. "*For everyone who asks, receives, and he who seeks finds,...*"

280704