

# GET IN HIS PATH!

## Luke 19 NLT

Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. Here was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today." Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled. Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!" Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. For the Son of Man[a] came to seek and save those who are lost."

### Back Story:

Week before crucifix, his moment has nothing to do with Zacchaeus and he Leaps into this story:

- He just blasts into the scene
- As we speak about how to serve as the church,
- He's not on the welcome team
- Not on the worship team
- Not on the production team
- He leaps out of nowhere
- By birthright he was a son of Abraham.

So Zacchaeus is not a well liked man, as he's a *tax collector*, and he wasn't just a tax collector, he's the chief of tax collector.

3 key points we can learn from Zack's life

**Point: Lose our Pride**

**Luke 19:3**

He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd.

It is THIS Zacchaeus who is looking for Jesus.

- The chief of the tax collectors, he's from a high place, but short of stature.
- The **dichotomy** or the contrast between the two is not by accident.
- They are talking about how big he is, and how small he is.
- When they're talking about BIG, they're not just talking about money, they're talking about **POWER** because they use the word CHIEF of the tax collectors.
- Don't confuse money and power.
- He has influence, he has affluence
- Even though they don't like him, they don't mess around with him cos they don't want to mess with who he can call down.
- He knows people, he can get things done.
- **AND** he was rich.
- The bible says money is a defense
- Also says money is an answer to **all things**
- If it's a thing, money can answer things.
- Zack was a big guy, but he had an issue that power couldn't fix.
- He had an issue money couldn't buy
- The bible says he's powerful, Rich **BUT** short.

I want to talk about BUTs for a minute.

- Coming up short
- I can make money, but I can't manage it
- I'm good about starting relationships but I can't keep them well
- There's always something that you wrestle with that you need God in your life.
- There's always a BUT that makes you need God.
- I'm not here cause I like him,
- I'm not here cause I love him
- I NEED HIM in my life.
- BUT will make you get on your knees, BUT will make you call on Jesus, BUT will make you plead the blood, BUT will make you raise your hands in the service, BUT will humble you, BUT will make you call on your maker.

- If you think you don't have a BUT you're lying.
- EVERYONE in here has a BUT
- Zack doesn't come to Jesus because he has Money
- Zack doesn't come to Jesus because he has power
- He doesn't come to Jesus because he is Rich
- He comes to Jesus because has a BUT in his life.
- All the things that are working for me are not a problem
- It's the thing that's not working for me that is my problem.

Do you know God has a Plan and a Purpose for your life?

- In order to be completely, totally, wholly fulfilled in life, you have to be able to get in God's path
- If I'm not in Your path, I want You to move me.
- If I'm not in Your path, I want You to push me.
- If I'm not in Your path, I want You to lead me.
- BUT God
- I've been off the course sometime (walk behind the curtain and walk out of the stage)
- I've been on the wrong road sometime
- I've taken the wrong turn sometime
- I got into trouble sometime
- I tried to take a short cut sometime

But now that I came to my senses,

- Lord I want you to lead me,
- I want you to guide me,
- I want you to help me find my path to your ways! (Fall on projector image)
- Touch three people and say get in Gods path!

### **Point: Position yourself**

#### **Luke 19:4**

So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.

My man Zach, he was smart. He knew if he got in Gods path, everything else will take care of itself.

- So he ran down the road before Jesus could get there and he saw a tree, cos he knew he was short, cos when you come up short, God will always leave you a tree upon which to get up to his level!
- So he ran down the road before Jesus could get there and he saw a tree, cos he knew he was short, **cos when you come up short, God will always leave you a tree upon which to get up to his level!**
- If you've come up short as a husband,
- coming up short as a wife,
- coming up short in your finances

- Coming up short in your business
- **Just know Gods got a tree that will save you!**
- I have been coming up short but I see a tree
- I came up short as a mother,
- I came up short as a father
- I came up short as a son
- But everytime the devil tried to kill me, God sent a tree - HE SENT A TREE!
- God thank you for the TREE!
- I don't know who I'm preaching to, but Gods got a tree waiting for you.
- This is your year to climb the tree!
- I'm short but I'm climbing, I'm late, but I'm climbing, I'm broke but I'm climbing, I've been down but I'm climbing.

### GOD KNEW ALL ALONG YOU NEEDED HELP

(Tree was given before you were born)

- I believe God grew the tree before Zack was even a twinkle in his mommy and daddys eyes.
- He knew that Zack was going to come up short!
- I want you to know that God is growing you a tree
- To think that God would love me enough to plant me a tree.
- To think that God would know me so much so that he would plant a tree which would grow to bear the weight of my sins, and when I got hungry enough, when I got thirsty enough, when I got humble enough, to admit that I was not enough by myself, he already had a tree in place!
- The sooner you stop trying to impress people with what you have, and you humble down with what you don't have, you'll find your tree.
- I want to make one thing clear, You can't find your tree if you're caught up in yourself.
- You have to be humble enough to admit I'm short.
- I'm a good looking man, but I'm short,
- I'm talented, but I'm short
- I'm gifted but I'm short.
- You can allow people to so focus on your gift, that you forget about your height.
- Don't ever get so high with what you do have that you don't recognize what you don't have
- That tree is dependent on you to admit that you've come up short, but that ego has got you so drunk on yourself that you don't praise him. You too important

What will people think if I climb up on that tree?!

- When you read the passage, I realize Zack was a rich man.
- Rich is a relative term, so everyone in this room is rich to someone else.
- I realized I had just enough money to get in the room with people who really had money, and against those who really had money, I came up short.
- I said God, I'm coming up short.
- You don't know how short you are unless you get around tall

- If there are no tall people around you, you'll feel tall - I felt that way going to China and riding the subway. Boy was I tall. I could see right down to the end of the train!
- When you take photos with tall people and people say I didn't know you were that short, you say, I'm not short, its who I'm standing next to.
- This fellow has the Childlike Faith that Jesus asks us to have.

## RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

- We need a relationship not religion
- People have a way of covering up their inadequacies, if I razzle dazzle with this, they wont know im struggling with that
- We are all in here, hearing the word, but some of us are taking placebos
- Everyone gets a pill and no one can tell the difference between the medication and the placebo so you can get an honest assessment of the power of the medication
- Everyone's sitting and hearing this but everybody isn't getting the word,
- Some are getting a placebo, cause they're not focused on the word of God
- They just want to say post on Instagram that they went to church
- But a fiery test will tell if you took the medication or you took the placebo.
- If your feelings get hurt and you quit, you really didn't have an encounter with God, you had an encounter with me, **(dynamic)**
- But if you had an encounter with God
- You'll stay with him when its uncomfortable,
- You'll do what his word says to do even when all your feelings tell you that you're not capable of that decision
- God gets you uncomfortable when he wants you to do something.

It's going to be uncomfortable to do what God wants you to do.

- It wasn't normal for Zack to get up on that tree,
- it was when all that he had wasn't enough to satisfy him, he started looking to Jesus.
- The potter knows where to push you to make you move,
- Where to join a church
- He makes us uncomfortable.

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

- If you're worried your clothes are going to get dirty, **Climb that tree**
- If you're worried you might pull a hamstring, **climb that tree**
- If you're worried someone else might look at you - **climb that tree**
- If I can just make it up there, something is going to happen
- If I can just climb a little higher than my history, something is going to happen.
- If I can just climb a little over what random strangers on social media think about you, something is going to happen.
- If I can just open myself up to be accountable to those he has put around me, somethings going to happen.

- You're not going to get a vision on the level that you're on. You've got to climb higher so you can see.
- The reason you can't see clearly is because you're living in the level of your problems.
- If you climb above your situation, if you climb above your circumstance, if you climb above your dilemma, you're gonna see on a level that you've never seen, because you're going to be on a level that you've never been.
- Sometimes what is coming is so big you have to start climbing before it comes. You can't wait till it comes and then start climbing, cos you won't be ready for what God is about to do in your life. I want to remind you to start climbing.
- You might be saying, oh, you want me to climb? I don't see anything going on. Noah didn't see any rain when he built the ark.

So this fool was running to climb up a tree.

- the bible says he uses the fools to confound the wise
- He looked like a fool cause he ran like his life depended on it climbing up a tree on a hope
- On a hope
- That he believed he was in God's path, and he believed that was his tree
- He no longer could use his shortness as an excuse because God has provided a tree to make up the difference between my limitations and my opportunities
- I know some of you have a history you're running from but I have a tree, I know you have made some mistakes but I have a tree, I know you stole something but I have a tree, I know you had an affair but I have a tree, I know you smoke some drugs, but I have a tree
- And if you get on that tree I'll pass by

Zack gets in God's path, he climbs up a tree and waits

- He has positioned himself for success.
- He has positioned himself for an encounter with God
- You can say I'd like to walk with Jesus all you want but unless you climb up that tree and position yourself for an encounter with God, nothing you ever do will work.
- I hear people who tell me how the service goes and sometimes two people can have the total different feelings. And it's because of the way they've positioned themselves.

HOW HAVE YOU POSITIONED YOURSELF?

- Did you come expecting God to speak?
- Did you come expecting a miracle?
- Here comes Jesus now, He comes to Zack
- Zack didn't come to Jesus, Jesus comes to Zack because he has positioned himself and the bible says, when Jesus got to the tree, he looked up.
- Don't let God look up and you not be there
- I don't want to not be at the tree He had planted for me to be up on.

## Point: You were always His

The last thing the verse tells us he's a son of Abraham,

- it reminds him who he is
- He doesn't need roman money to be accepted
- You're a child of a king
- You're a child of the most High
- There are some things God wants for you, and you can't have them unless you get up on that tree.
- It wasn't until Jesus went to his house, Zack realized how poor he was.

The best part is..

## 2 Timothy 1:9

For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time—to show us his grace through Christ Jesus.

Sometimes we hold on to Identities which God doesn't put on us.

- We need to reorder what Identity we prioritize.
- We all make the same mistakes
  - Racial
  - Cultural
  - National
  - Our past
  - Financial

But with All God has done for us, we need to say thank you.

- If I was English I'd say thank you
- If I was Hispanic, I'd say MUCHOS GRACIAS
- If I was Chinese I'd say OH -DEA
- If I was Italian I'd say GRAZIE
- If I was Jewish, I'd say TODA RABA
- If I was Greek SEF - HAH - REESTO
- If I was Japanese I would say ARIGATO
- If I was Portuguese I would say OH BRI GADO
- If I was from North India, I'd say DHANYA VAD
- If I was from south India I'd say VANDA NAM
- If I was German I'd say DAN KA SHEIN
- If I was French I'd say MERCY BA COUP

- If I was Russian I'd say SPACIBA  
If I was Kenyan I'd say ASHANTE  
If I was Nigerian I'd say ESHAY

Since I am who I am, I am what he has made me, that I have a tree to climb up on, I'm going to praise God!!!