# Zacchaeus Meets Jesus KZ Lesson Sun Am 1/31/21

# Memory Verse: Luke 19:10 (NKJV)

**10**for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Target Thought: Jesus wants everyone saved.

Luke 19:1-10 (NKJV)

**19**Then *Jesus* entered and passed through Jericho. **2**Now behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. **3**And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. **4**So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that *way.* **5**And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” **6**So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. **7**But when they saw *it,* they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.”

**8**Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.”

**9**And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; **10**for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Who was Zacchaeus? Sure, he was short, but that was not his only problem. Zacchaeus was a tax collector. Tax collectors were pretty unpopular in the days of Jesus. Basically, they robbed people. The tax collectors could come around and make people pay more money than they actually should have owed, and then the collector would pocket the remaining money. So they were deceitful and greedy, but there wasn’t much that could be done about it. Zacchaeus was one of those guys. As a result, the Jews were not big fans of his. But somehow he had heard about Jesus, and he must have been curious to learn more about the miracle worker…

So not only was he a swindling tax collector, he was one of the bosses, and had accumulated a lot of money from his dealings. Now, Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus, but he was really short, and sometimes you have to improvise, and that is what this man did:

And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. Consider the amazing details that are taking place here…there’s Zacchaeus, short guy climbing up a tree to see the Jewish teacher he’s heard about. He probably thought he was hidden away anonymously. But Jesus knew better.

Jesus knows everything and we can’t hide anything from Jesus. He looked straight up at the guy and called him out by name. Not only that, but he invited himself over for dinner! How would you have felt if you had been Zacchaeus? What was going through Zacchaeus’s head? Whatever it was, he was excited, because the verse tells us he hurried down and received Jesus joyfully. Now, remember that Zacchaeus was kind of a “bad guy” in the eyes of the Jews…they weren’t too pleased that Jesus would associate with such a person, and they complained about it. Fortunately, Jesus was not after public opinion boosts, Jesus wanted Zacchaeus saved!. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” Zacchaeus repented, he loved Jesus and wanted to do the right thing. And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Jesus was not worried about how others viewed Him. He knew that His mission came from God, and that it involved loving all people.

Let’s pray: Dear Jesus give us the courage to tell others about You, and help them to become saved. In Your Name we ask. Amen.

1. Can we hide anything from Jesus?
2. What did Jesus want for Zacchaeus?
3. Did Zacchaeus repent?