

August 27, 2017

“Jesus and a Few Friends”

“Now you are my friends, since I have told you everything the Father told me.” John 15:15b

“Dinner with a Friend:

Life Change for All The Right Reasons - Zacchaeus!”

“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 came to seek and save those who are lost.’”

Luke 19:9-10

+ FOLLOW Zacchaeus

First Impression Likes

Age: Mid 50s (a wild guess)
Occupation: Tax Collector
Summary: Chief tax collectors would oversee a district and have other tax collectors serving under them. The chief tax collectors worked directly for the Roman government.
Culture: The tax collectors were seen as traitors and were hated by all the Jewish people.

Family: Most likely, he had a wife and children. The tax business was often a generational business passed on to the sons.
Friends: Very few!
Things: Taxes were varied and taken at any time.

Journey Personality

Goal: Zacchaeus was a curiosity seeker.
Motivation: Despite his size, he was incredibly motivated to see Jesus. He was willing to risk dignity and position to climb a tree for a better view.
Conflict: The obvious conflict between tax collectors and the people. His wealth was built on those he taxed and extorted.
Awakening: Something changed when he saw Jesus!

Flaws: Greed was the common description of tax collectors. They had total disregard for the lives and feelings of others.
Graces: God's transforming power brought opposite results to his life.
Skills: Accounting and record-keeping

Zacchaeus = ENTJ

ENTJ – Strategic, logical, efficient, outgoing, ambitious, independent.
Effective organizers of people and long- range planners.

Myers-Briggs:

To increase energy, those who...

Turn to others are an **E** (extroversion) Turn inward are **I** (introversion)

Those who take in information in a...

Creative way are an **N** (intuition) Pragmatic way are **S** (sensing)

When making decisions, those who...

Seek harmony are an **F** (feeling) Seek objective truth are **T** (thinking)

Those who prefer to...

Get closer and act are a **J** (judging) Stay open and adapt are **P** (perceiving)

A. Zacchaeus was a tax collector...

Luke 19:1-10

1. Zacchaeus lived in Jericho, a town near Jerusalem.
“Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town.” Vs 1

2. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector over a district.
“There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich.” Vs 2

3. Zacchaeus was too short to see Jesus over the crowd and not the kind of person anyone felt any benevolence, as to give him a space to see.

“He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd.” Vs 3

4. So, Zacchaeus had no obstacles in trying to see Jesus.

“So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.” Vs 4

B. There are so many questions...

1. What would motivate a wealthy man to climb a tree in a crowd?
2. What would motivate a community leader feared in all crowds, to lose his dignity and climb a tree?
3. What would motivate a despised man, who was not even permitted to enter the Temple or a synagogue to seek after a religious man?
4. Why wouldn't he have used some of his wealth to get access to a front row seat to see this Jesus?

C. Here is how it all went down...

1. Jesus caught eye contact with Zacchaeus, called him by name, and invited Himself to his home.
“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.’” Vs 5
2. With great excitement, Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus home with him.

“Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy.” Vs 6

3. Jesus did not please the crowd at His invitation to the home of Zacchaeus.

“But the people were displeased. ‘He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,’ they grumbled.” Vs 7

4. Zacchaeus makes a remarkable transformation!
“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!’” Vs 8

5. Jesus confirms the transformation and His purpose in coming!

“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 came to seek and save those who are lost.’” Vs 9-10

D. If you were friends with Zacchaeus, what takeaway would you gain from your friendship?

From Zacchaeus:

1. There are no obstacles when it comes to seeking Jesus.
2. It is better to lose our dignity, pride, and self-importance, than our soul.
3. Seeking after Jesus puts us in the place of being willing to take a risk.
4. Wealth should never be an obstacle to following Jesus but rather a vehicle to serving Him.
5. Following Jesus may mean being your most effective tax collector (or whatever vocation) in your line of work.
6. Relationships are the most important work we do.
7. People are more important than money!
8. Real repentance takes us in a different direction than we have traveled thus far.

From Jesus:

9. Nothing matches eye contact and personal names in connecting with people.
10. Always be on the lookout for those who are seeking Jesus.
11. Your normal pathways will give you opportunities you never expected.
12. Don't let discomfort stop you from reaching out to others.
13. Don't let the opinion of the crowds hold you back from reaching others for Jesus.
14. Acknowledge the work of God in others' lives. It will encourage them and strengthen them for what is ahead for them.
15. No person is beyond the reach of Jesus' forgiveness nor His transforming power.
16. Never lose sight of our purpose and mission. This world can distract us, but nothing is more important than preparing for eternity and taking as many as possible to heaven with us.

Summer sermon series:

August 29: Begins 40 Days of Prayer and Fasting

September 3, 2017

**When A Friendship Goes Bad:
Friends Aren't Always Forever - Judas!**

September 10, 2017 A new 8-week series called:

**“Life Verse – A Close Encounter,
When God Gives Direction for Our Lives.”** (Each of your pastors will talk about how the Word of God has guided their lives or how God has given them a passage for life.)

ISTJ –Responsible, sincere, analytical, reserved, realistic, systematic. Hardworking and trustworthy with sound practical judgment.	ISFJ – Warm considerate, gentle, responsible, pragmatic, and thorough. Devoted caretakers who enjoy being helpful to others.
INFJ – Idealistic, organized, insightful, dependable, compassionate and gentle. Seek harmony and cooperation, enjoy intellectual stimulation.	INTJ – Innovative, independent, strategic, logical, reserved, insightful. Driven by their own original ideas to achieve improvements.
ISTP – Action-oriented, logical, analytical, spontaneous, reserved, independent. Enjoy adventure skilled at understanding how mechanical things work.	ISFP – Gentle, sensitive, nurturing, helpful, flexible, realistic. Seek to create a personal environment that is both beautiful and practical.
INFP – Sensitive, creative, idealistic, perceptive, caring, loyal. Value inner harmony and personal growth, focus on dreams and possibilities.	INTP – Intellectual, logical, precise, reserved, flexible, imaginative. Original thinkers who enjoy speculation and creative problem solving.
ESTP – Outgoing, realistic, action-oriented, curious, versatile, spontaneous. Pragmatic problem solvers and skillful negotiators.	ESFP – Playful, enthusiastic, friendly, spontaneous, tactful, flexible. Have strong common sense; enjoy helping people in tangible ways.
ENFP – Enthusiastic, creative spontaneous, optimistic, supportive, playful. Value inspiration; enjoy starting new projects, see potential in others.	ENTP – Inventive, enthusiastic, strategic, enterprising, inquisitive, versatile. Enjoy new ideas and challenges, value inspiration.
ESTJ – Efficient, outgoing, analytical, systematic, dependable, realistic. Like to run the show and get things done in an orderly fashion.	ESFJ – Friendly, outgoing, reliable, conscientious, organized, practical. Seek to be helpful and please others, enjoy being active and productive.
ENFJ – Caring, enthusiastic, idealistic, organized, diplomatic, responsible. Skilled communicators who value connection with people.	ENTJ – Strategic, logical, efficient, outgoing, ambitious, independent. Effective organizers of people and long-range planners.