



When Jesus Shares the Gospel

Talk 4 - Seeking the Lost Causes

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Text: Luke 19:1-10

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Luke 19:1-10 (ESV)

"He entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. 3 And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. 4 So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. 5 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." 6 So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. 7 And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." 8 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." 9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Luke's Gospel: An Eyewitness Account

- Luke 1:1-3
- Zacchaeus is unique to Luke
- is most likely an eyewitness account given to Luke firsthand.

1. When Jesus Shares the Gospel: **he invites the uninvite-able.**

- hated job - chief tax collector
- hated employer - Rome

2. When Jesus Shares the Gospel: **he breaks the "rules"**

- Jesus' invitation - Luke 19:5 (cf. Acts 10:28)
- Man-made rules (social/religious), NOT God's commands

3. When Jesus Shares the Gospel: **he ignores the crowd.**

- The crowd's response - Luke 19:7

4. When Jesus Shares the Gospel: **he shares on purpose**

- Jesus' purpose - Luke 19:10

5. When People Believe the Gospel: **they repent**

- Zacchaeus' response - Luke 19:8
- REMEMBER: Rom. 1:5 - "the obedience of faith"

Applications And Questions for Reflection:

DAY 1 - Inviting the Uninvite-able

1. We saw that Jesus invited himself into Zacchaeus' life because Zaccheaus would not have been able to invite Jesus into his. Who are the "uninvite-able" folks for you? Who would you be most surprised to see come to True North and become a Christian? Are there any people that you believe it would be a waste of time to invite to church, or to tell them about Jesus? Have you ever, or do you know, feel like an "uninvite-able" person?

DAY 2 - Ignoring the Rules

2. Jesus broke the man-made religious and social "rules" of the day in order to spend time with Zacchaeus and obey the actual commands of God (to seek and save the lost). What man-made social, religious, and moral expectations or rules prevent us from showing Christ's love to those around us?

DAY 3 - Ignoring the Crowd

3. The crowds "grumbled" when Jesus ignored the "rules" of the day in order to spend time with Zacchaeus. What do you think your own friends and/or others would say if you were to go to begin intentionally seek people out to talk to them about Jesus? How would they grumble? How would you respond?

DAY 4 - Sharing On Purpose

4. We saw that Jesus intentionally sought out people with whom he could share the gospel. This was the purpose of Jesus' coming. This was Jesus' purpose, and he calls us to make it our purpose as well. How intentional are you about sharing your faith with your friends and family? What would it look like for you to "share the Gospel on purpose?"

DAY 5 - Repentance

5. Zacchaeus' response to Jesus' message, was repentance - he changed the direction of his life. He repaid those he had cheated with interest, and even sold things he owned to give to those in need. Have you responded to Jesus by changing the direction of your life? Repentance is not a one time thing, but is the new direction and character of a Christian's life. In what ways do you currently need to repent?