

## Zacchaeus, Wee Man, Big Heart!

**-How many of you remember the children's song—"Zacchaeus Was A Wee Little Man"? Let's sing it together:**

Zacchaeus was a wee little man and a wee little man was He,  
He climbed up in a sycamore tree for the Lord he wanted to see,  
And as the Savior passed that way He looked up in the tree,  
And He said, "Zacchaeus, you come down!  
For I'm going to your house today,  
Yes I'm going to your house to today!"

**-Does anyone know from what book of the Bible this story came from? (Luke 19:1-10)(Read it out loud if time allows.)**

**-What do we know about Zacchaeus? (He was a tax collector who profited from taking more than his share from tolls, taxes, etc; he was short, determined, curious and not well liked)**

**-When was his life changed? (When he met Jesus.)**

**-Was his physical appearance or stature changed? (No)**

**-Was his position changed? (No.)**

**-What was changed? (His heart.)**

**-He had a change from the inside that came out on his outside—he gave his heart to Jesus with not only words but with actions. He gave half of all he had to the poor and then paid back 4 times what he had cheated anyone out of.**

**-Let me ask each of us a question...is it just our words that proclaim the change in us or do our actions show it as well? (...)**

**-Let's think about this for a minute - do others see a difference in us compared to the world? (...)**

**-If we wore a sign on our neck all the time that said "Christian"—would we act differently in our daily lives?**

**-What if we had that sign on right now, would we put a sour taste in someone's mouth? (...)**

**-Would they say, "If that is how Christians act—I don't want to be one."?**

**-Let's put it into an everyday example we can all relate to. How many of you have ever driven over the speed limit and as soon as you saw a police car, you immediately slowed down? (...)**

**-Do you think we should have been going the legalized speed all along? (...)**

**-That is the same as being a Christian. We should be living the Christian life the whole time, whether someone is watching us or not.**

**-Now, let's dig a little deeper into our hearts to see where it is at this time. How do we act to those who annoy us, who are slow, who get in our way, or who are unkind to us? (...)**

**-Do we repay them with unkindness or do we give 4 times the kindness back, like Zacchaeus did? (...)**

**-You see, Jesus came near to Zacchaeus and Zacchaeus received Him. But it wasn't enough to just have that one encounter with Jesus, Jesus wanted to stay with him. It is the same with us, it isn't enough to have that one encounter with Jesus, He wants to stay with us too. Let's see from scripture how, like Zacchaeus, we can seek Him out and stay near to Him in our everyday lives!**

**-Let's read our first verse together on our Verse Sheet to help us emphasize this: (Psalm 27:8 "My heart says of you, 'Seek His face! Your face Lord, I will Seek.'")**

**-What are ways that we can seek the Lord on a daily basis? (Meditating on His Word and Praying.)**

**-Prayer isn't something we just have to do—it is something we get to do!!! We get to bring God into every worry, concern and blessing that we will encounter each and every day.**

**-Why do you think the word "heart" was used here? (Because our heart is the vital center and source of our being, emotions and sensibilities. When we do things with our heart, it is what we deeply desire and yearn for.)**

**-Do you "yearn" with all your heart to seek Him daily in your life, through prayer, reading His Word and trusting in Him? (...)**

**-Just as Zacchaeus had the desire to seek the Lord out, he was also willing to do what would please the Lord and please others.**

**-Let me share a story with you. A widow was having a particularly down day, dwelling on her problems and sorrows. God had brought to her mind many weeks before that she needed to take some food to a friend that was very sick. She had never gotten around to it. Then one day, she followed through and the joy that filled her heart outweighed the sorrows she was feeling. Her attitude changed because she took the focus off of her struggles and put it on someone else to bless them.**

**-When we listen and draw near to God, doing as He says, He changes our heart and attitude.**

**-Let's read verse #2 on the Verse Sheet together: (Phillipians 4:4-5 "*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again! Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.*")**

**-According to this verse, Who should we be rejoicing in? (The Lord)**

**-Our true joy comes only from the Lord. We can rejoice that He is our Lord and Savior and He will meet and supply all our needs according to His great riches. These riches include joy, hope and peace in this journey called life that only He can give in times when nothing else can satisfy.**

**-The second part of this verse tells us to let our gentleness be evident to all.**

**-Can you think of some ways you can let your gentleness be evident to others? Give us some examples: (Let them share examples.)**

**-Also, according to this verse, why should our gentleness be evident to all? (For the Lord is near.)**

**-In other words, He is not far off as we sometimes think when we are in our selfish moods, He is right here, near us. He is watching our hearts and our attitudes as we respond to all those He created that are all around us every day.**

**-Now, let's talk a little bit about prayer.**

**-Let me share a story. During a Bible Study on the Old Testament Tabernacle, a teacher showed how the portable tent that was moved from place to place was the meeting place where God met with man. It was so interesting to the group to read of the intricate details of the materials of fine linen, precious metals and jewels that were part of the "portable" Tabernacle and how each were the perfect specifications of God's plan. The thing that struck this group the most were the 2 altars. Outside of the Holy of Holies there was the "altar of sacrifice" where the burnt offering was given. This was the bull or lamb that someone brought for a sacrifice. It was from this "altar of sacrifice" that the priest took the burning coals to use for the other altar, the "altar of incense". The fragrant offering of the incense was a picture of the prayers of the saints being lifted up to God. The only coals that could be used on the "alter of incense" to heat the incense were the ones on which the blood of sacrifice had been spilled on the first altar. It was a picture of what was to come, Jesus would be the blood sacrifice to open the door of communication (our prayers) with God our Father.**

**-It is only because of the sacrifice of Jesus that we have the privilege to lift our prayers up to God. Jesus *lives* to intercede for us.**

**-Let's read verse #3 together to see what King David said about prayer: (Psalm 141:2 "*May my prayer be set before You like incense, may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.*")**

**-Let's look at those first 7 words, what do they say? ("May my prayer be set before You")**

**-Who is the "You" in this verse? (God)**

**-How does it make you feel to know that your prayers are set right before God the Father, the Creator of all things, the Healer of Souls?**

**-Think about it. Does it give you peace, hope and rest in your soul?**

**-David wanted his prayer set before God like what? (Incense)**

**-When you think of incense, what kind of aroma does it have? (pleasing)**

**-So, as we look at this verse, David is asking that his prayers would be set before God and that it would be pleasing to Him.**

**-How does it make you feel to know that your prayers are set right before God the Father, the Creator of all things, the Healer of Souls? (Think about it.)**

**-Who knows who Fannie Cosby was? (She lived from 1820 to 1915 and wrote more than 8000 hymns. She was blind from 6 weeks of age because of improper medical treatment.)**

**-Did you know she never exhibited bitterness or depression? (...)**

**-Once a well intended minister remarked to her. "I think that it is a great pity that the Master (Our Lord), when He showered so many gifts upon you, did not give you sight." "Do you know", responded Fanny, "if at birth I had been able to make one petition to my Creator, it would have been that I should be born blind" "Why?", asked the surprised clergyman. She answered, "Because, when I get to heaven, the first sight that shall even gladden my eyes will be of my Savior!"**

**-What perspective Fannie had. Oh, that we would have that same perspective as we look at our own situations.**

**-One of Fanny's many hymns was "Saved by Grace" which she wrote when she was 71 years of age with these words: "And I shall see Him face to face, and tell the story - saved by grace!"**

**-Fanny had encountered Jesus and remained near to Him all her life.**

**-Let's read verse #4 together to emphasize this: (Hebrews 10:22 "Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart *and with the full assurance that faith brings...*")**

**-Just like Zacchaeus and Fanny, we can draw near to God, knowing with full assurance that He accepts us and loves us and changes us for His glory and our joy!**

**-We want our life to be evidence of a changed life.**

**-There is an old cathedral in Germany. The tower of the cathedral has very steep, narrow steps but if one ever gets to the top, it is the most magnificent view. Many tourists just stay on the bottom, walking around the outside only long enough to take a picture to show they were there. Others walk inside and see the steep, narrow steps going up and say, it is too hard for me and they don't even try. Others begin their trek up but they get annoyed and impatient because there are some slower people in front of them and when they can't make the progress that they want, they turn around angrily and go back down. Others move on ahead but get hungry and distracted so they eat their lunch but just leave all their trash in the way which hampers others journey. Others decide half way up that it is just too hard and they haven't seen a good view yet so they turn around. And then there are those who make it to the top and know that it didn't matter all that they had to go through, it was worth every ache, pain or hardship to get there and see the beauty all around.**

**-How do we want to account for our lives?**

**-Do we want to make it to the top because we have encountered Jesus and He is worth every pain and hardship that we have gone through?**

**-Is the beauty of a changed life and living for Him worth it to us?**

**-DL Moody often reminded his readers, “A little faith will get you to heaven, but much faith will bring heaven to your soul!”**

**-As it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him!” 1 Corinthians 2:9**

**-We want to have ALL that God would want for us if we would but draw near to Him as Zacchaeus did. Let us draw near to Him today!**

## “Zacchaeus” Verse Sheet

**1.Psalm 27:8 “My heart says of you,  
‘Seek His face! Your face Lord, I will  
Seek.”**

**2.Philippians 4:4-5 “Rejoice in the  
Lord always. I will say it again!  
Rejoice! Let your gentleness be  
evident to all. *The Lord is near.*”**

**3.Psalm 141:2 “*May my prayer be set  
before You like incense, may the lifting  
up of my hands be like the evening  
sacrifice.*”**

**4.Hebrews 10:22 “Let us draw near to  
God with a sincere heart and *with the  
full assurance that faith brings,...*”**