

For the ONE - The Betrayer ONE

Introduction:

In the 1st century Roman-occupied world, there was a practice called “farming” where tax collectors would charge more than was necessary, keeping the extra for themselves. In the prosperous and ancient city of Jericho, a man named Zaccheus was guilty of this practice. Scripture tells us he was a “chief tax collector and was wealthy.” We can know that his wealth was the product of deception and cheating. When the world looked at Zaccheus, that is what they saw – his sin, yet Jesus saw something else.

Zaccheus climbed a tree to see Jesus, but Jesus saw him for who he really was, a lost man in need of salvation.” As a result, Jesus did what nobody else would do. He went to stay with this sinner and offered salvation and life. Zaccheus was changed forever by this act of mercy and grace.

We are all like Zaccheus, lost and seeking Jesus. The promise of the Gospel is that Jesus sees us for who we really are, the lost and hurting ones. He looks at us and invites us to come and live with him.

Read Your Bible

- Luke 19:1-10
- Luke 15:1-7

Apply God’s Word to Your Life:

1. Who is Zaccheus? What details do we learn about him?
2. Why is the detail about Zaccheus’s stature important?
3. As one who constantly cheated others, how do you think his heart felt?
4. Why do you think Zaccheus wanted to see Jesus?
5. In what ways does Jesus treat Zaccheus differently than everyone else does? How is he judged for that?
6. Who are the “lost” in our world? In what ways are we lost?
7. How does Jesus see us, the lost ones? Why does that matter?

Reflecting on the text:

1. What have you learned about God?
2. What have you learned about the world?
3. What have you learned about yourself?

Pray

Oh Lord, you are holy and mighty. We are small and our hearts are seeking you. Look upon us with your kindness. Give to us your mercy and grace. Help us to follow Jesus, the one who came to seek and save the lost. In his name we pray. Amen.