

# POWER HOUR

1/12/2025

Lesson Text:  
Luke 19:1-10

Background Scripture:  
Luke 15:1-10

Devotional Reading:  
Ezekiel 18:19-32 & Acts 11:1-18

“JESUS SEEKS OUT ZACCHAEUS”

NLT TRANSLATION

**Golden Text:** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save those who are lost” Luke 19:10 NLT

**Time:** A.D. 30

**Place:** Jericho

## Luke 19:1-10 NLT

**1** Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. **2** There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. **3** He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. **4** So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. **5** 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.” **6** Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. **7** But the people were displeased. “He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,” they grumbled. **8** 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!” **9** Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. **10** For the Son of Man[a] came to seek and save those who are lost.”

## INTRODUCTION

Many people today think that acquiring more things or acquiring bigger and better things will make them happy. If they can have a bigger and better car they think they will be happy. If they can go on a bigger and better vacation than last time, they think they will be happy. Sadly, this kind of happiness is always elusive.

True joy starts with faith in Jesus as we will see in the account of Zacchaeus in Luke 19.

**1. Zacchaeus's interest in faith (Luke 19:1-4).** As Jesus entered Jericho, He encountered a man named Zacchaeus, who "was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich" (vs 2). Quite likely his role as a publican, or tax collector, made him rich because later he promised to restore fourfold what he had taken "by false accusation" (vs 8).

Zacchaeus knew about Jesus and wanted to see this Man who had done such miraculous works, but he had a problem. He was short, which meant he might not see Jesus because of the crowds of people. Zacchaeus was so intent on seeing Jesus that he "ran before and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him" (vs. 4) Zacchaeus's actions showed how highly he regarded Jesus.

**2. Jesus challenge of faith (Luke 19:5-6).** Jesus stopped beneath that tree. Jesus already knew all about Zacchaeus. He said to him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house" (vs. 5). Having Jesus in his home was probably more than Zacchaeus ever imagined.

Zacchaeus did not hesitate. "He made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully" (vs. 6).

**3. Zacchaeus's demonstration of faith (Luke 19:7-10).** As usual, people "murmured, saying, That He was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner" (vs. 7). Such criticism did not stop Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus's change in actions demonstrated the change that had taken place in his heart.

Jesus understood the change in Zacchaeus that day and said, "This day is salvation come to this house, for so much as he also is a son of Abraham" (vs. 9)

Jesus then stated His mission to all people – "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (vs. 10)

## **POINTS TO PONDER**

1. Great wealth is of no avail in getting to see Jesus (Luke 19:1-3).
2. Often, we want just a glimpse of Jesus, but He wants to give us all of Himself (vss. 4-5).
3. When Jesus calls to us, we need to respond with eagerness and joy (vs. 6)
4. Outreach to sinners will often provoke criticism among the self-righteous (vs. 7)

5. If we have been touched by the Lord, our dealings with others should be marked by generosity and restitution (vs. 8).
6. If we are saved, it is because Jesus found us (vss. 9-10)

## **CONCLUSION**

Jesus, you might say, had a soul-seeking ability because He had the heart of God. When He passed under the sycamore tree where Zacchaeus sat, He looked straight up. He had found His treasure (Luke 12:34). Jesus was and is on a great search-and-rescue mission for the souls of humanity.

## **QUESTION(S)**

Why was Zacchaeus's great wealth of no avail in procuring him a vantage point from which he could get a glimpse of Jesus (Luke 19:2-3)?

Why did Zacchaeus want to see Jesus as He passed by? What were the probable limits of his expectations regarding any possible encounter?

Why did Jesus single out Zacchaeus for special attention (vs. 5)? Why was it important to spend time at his home rather than someone else's?

Why was Zacchaeus so happy to have Jesus' visit (vs. 6)

How do we know that Zacchaeus was not saved by the good works of giving to the poor and restoring what he had gained wrongly (vs. 8)

What does his promise signify?

## **ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON**

Next week's lesson is *"Healing Ten Lepers"*

Lesson Text: *Luke 17:11-19*

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