

Prayer List

Veda
Wallace
Sheila
Judy
Rose

Services:

Sunday

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Assembly 10:00 a.m.
Assembly 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Brad Behrens - bradbehrens@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Michael Odom - MichaelOdom@pinolechurchofchrist.com

This Week's Question:

In what book do you find this: "Mine enemies chased me sore, like a bird, without cause"?

Answer To Last Week's Question:

John - Revelation 12:14

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Zacchaeus

Lowell Sallee

Only the Gospel of Luke records for us the story of a man that lived in Jericho by the name of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1–10). The Holy Spirit reveals that this man was a rich, chief tax collector who wanted to see Jesus.

Because of the crowd and his short stature, he had to climb up in a sycamore tree to see the Lord coming. When Jesus came by he looked up and saw Zacchaeus in the tree and said, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house" (Luke 19:5). The Word of God says that Zacchaeus quickly came down and "received Him joyfully" (Luke 19:6). The quick response to Jesus' calling indicates Zacchaeus' true desire to see Jesus and listen to what He might command.

Of course, the "holier-than-thou" Jews were upset that out of all the people living in this city of priests, Jesus would choose to stay with a tax collector. "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner" (Luke 19:7). The Jews thought Zacchaeus an unworthy sinner for Jesus to associate. They did not consider him a "son of Abraham,"

a candidate for God's salvation, since he was a traitor to his people collecting taxes for a foreign power, the Roman government. However, Zacchaeus did not let the opinion of others stop him.

The Jews must have said this loud enough for Zacchaeus and the Lord to hear. Notice the response of Zacchaeus—"Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold" (Luke 19:8).

Zacchaeus was not in the habit of giving half of all his goods to the poor but was making a resolution to give right then and there half of all his goods to the poor. He also determines to right any wrongs of the past with four times the restitution. His open confession before the Lord and this crowd of people was confirmed to be from his heart by his newly found way of life.

The Lord responds, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:9–10).

It is clear from this passage that Jesus is delighted at the heart of Zacchaeus and his change of life. Yes, Zacchaeus was a sinner, and for just such a one Jesus had come to the earth. It did not really matter that the Jews thought Zacchaeus unworthy of the Lord's attention, the Lord Himself was touched with Zacchaeus' heart and that's what this story is really all about. The Lord's love of sinners and His mission of salvation was not thwarted by this crowd's prejudices.

Regardless of being a chief tax collector, which had obviously made Zacchaeus rich, he did not let his great wealth or his powerful position of authority stop him from seeking or from following the Lord. Very humbly

Zacchaeus admits his sins and very graciously makes a generous restitution.

Jesus had asked the rich young ruler to give all of his riches to the poor and come follow Him. Remember that he did not because he loved his money more than the Lord (Luke 18:18–23). Notice that the Lord did not ask Zacchaeus to give away all his wealth because Zacchaeus voluntarily from his heart gave up his earthly treasures for the one great treasure of salvation. The Lord knew that Zacchaeus did not love his money more than Him and had put his heart where it really counted—with the Lord. Nothing was standing between Zacchaeus and salvation, therefore, "Today salvation has come to this house" (Luke 19:10).

Zacchaeus did not let his physical stature keep him from the Lord either. Zacchaeus was bound and determined to see Jesus. If he had to climb a tree or a mountain, he was going to see Jesus. Zacchaeus truly was seeking the Lord and he found Him. Remember what Jesus taught? "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened" (Matthew 7:7–8).

The story of Zacchaeus is a story of salvation. He became in heart what his name means in Hebrew, "pure". Individuals today can be like Zacchaeus, if they will humble themselves in obedience to Jesus (Mark 16:15–16), and become the Lord's host too. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me" (Revelation 3:20).