

# SUNDAY MESSAGE- - 10/13/24

## PASTOR LEE

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*Luke 19: 1-10- -He entered into Jericho and was passing through. (2) And there was a man called Zacchaeus. He was the 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 say 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 four fold." (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."*

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- 'Setting the stage', Jesus is with His disciples....on the crowded road to ancient Jericho....an interim stop on the way to Jerusalem to commemorate the holy time of Passover (see Exodus 12: 12-14).
- In fact, relating to Jericho's 'storied' and historic past, it was the first city that God's people came to in the promised land after the 40 year exodus/trek from the slavery of Egypt.....it was , as well, the first city they conquered. Heeding God's explicit instructions, Joshua's army surrounded Jericho and its supposedly impregnable walls which- - by token of God's Will/ Power and their obedience- - crumbled before their very eyes. And they entered, conquered the City....collecting the spoils for the Lord's treasury. ( See Joshua 6 for narrative). Miraculous!- - ONLY SOMETHING GOD COULD DO.
- Returning to Jesus, he pulls his disciples off the crowded road....exclaims that He, Himself, will fulfill the Passover...will be mocked, tortured, crucified and resurrected. While the disciples could have perceptively, through their prior experience with Him, understood...rather, they received this with startling shock and disbelief. (See Luke 18:31-34)
- Next, they encounter two blind beggars...one of whom is Bartemaeus... who calls out to the Messiah. Despite the disciples rebukes and desire to shield Jesus calls them, and in the midst of all these shocked witnesses, He heals them!! Joy/praise engulfs the crowd. (ONLY SOMETHING GOD CAN DO). (Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43; Math 20:29-34) (Some of us, like Bartemaeus, share this beautiful faith in Jesus and feel its exciting and profound effect!)
- While all this is going on, another person- -Zacchaeus, the dreaded, rich tax collector- - does a stealth 'end-around' the whole crowd (avoiding visceral reaction), runs to the front, climbs a tree, and sets himself on a limb. Jesus looks up...sees...eyes lock...He calls him by name! Inexplicably and to puzzlement/ horror of many who saw him only as a diabolic sinner, Jesus

invites himself to Zacchaeus' home. And Jesus says.....'I've come to seek and save the lost'.  
The scene was inexplicable to the crowd.

- As we apply this to our current world, a question: Do we insulate ourselves in our **own** comfortable cocoon....our Church? Or do we look for the Zacchaeus' of the world and bring them in? People who, like Zacchaeus, appear to be such unlikely (future) contenders of our faith.....all existing in our worlds around ourselves....neighbors, friends, colleagues, etc. Metaphorically, who do we know who might, likewise, be sitting on that limb? Jesus provides us with the perfect example.
- Next week, as we celebrate FallFest, is the perfect time to invite someone to our Church....and to pitch in/serve.
- Do you remember when you, yourself were in that tree? Climb up it to reach him/her if you have to!

***-EVERYONE NEEDS SOMEONE TO INVITE THEM TO JESUS-***

***CAN YOU BE THAT 'SOMEONE'?***