

Jesus Changing A Mans Life

Luke 19-1-9

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" And Jesus said unto him, 'this day is salvation come to this house."

Jesus entered Jericho and just passed on through. He did not have to yield to the city. Some people can not resist the city. It draws them on Sundays, it draws them in the week, and when they get able they move to it. *Kills Country churches.*

There was a rich man...Zacchaeus, by name, who got interested in Jesus as to who He was. He was a man big in money but little in stature. He had two characteristics that we might mention here. First he was rich. Now all the people I know would like to have his wealth but very few people want to be small of stature. They feel that a person of size has more commanding personality.

All of us who do not have money are prone to criticise the man who does have it. The people back there called this man a sinner and criticised Jesus for going home with him and so on. If I were to go home with a rich man for lunch today there would be people criticize me and say I was taking up with the rich etc. Wealth does not make a man bad within its self. Poor people may be just as bad as rich man. Jesus is the difference in a persons life. If Jesus comes into a rich mans life we have our Wannamakers, Rocka fellows, and Dukes.

This man was high among his sect. He was chief of the Publicans and was rich. His money may have bought the office. Be that as it may he was chief and was rich. Neither his wealth nor his office had placed him where he could see Jesus. Now his wealth may have stood between him and Jesus and it so often does but the Scripture does not emphasize that. The Scripture emphasizes the fact that because of people he could not see Jesus. People, human flesh, material blocked his view of Jesus. Flesh so often is the thing that stands between and mars our view of Jesus. *you own flesh may do it.*

I venture to say that if people are not seeing Jesus in Columbus to day the cause, if found, would most likely be people. People were more in the way of Zacchaeus than was his money. When he got up to the point where people did not hinder his view he handled the money proposition all right. He said, "If I have taken any thing from any body by false accusation I will pay it back four dollars for one."

He at once realized that if he were to see Jesus who He was (that he would have to rise above the crowd. People were not thinking about helping him because he had money..he could make

his way all right. There are people of wealth, education, business ability, political fame who are starving to death for a glimpse of Jesus because people think that since those people have been able to accumulate these other things they are able to find Jesus...when the truth is that adults in getting money and fame are infants so far as religion is concerned.

You can be smothered today by the crowd...he was and yet he used his mind and his body to rise above the crowd. Many a time you will have to do just that. Use your mind and through your will move your body from the place where you are hidden from Jesus to a new position. There is value in placing your self where it is easier to see Jesus.

We have means for making this new placement....

1. Church school + *prayer meetings*
2. The church
3. Amongst the needy
4. In hospitals.
5. *Palat Club, Rotary, Shrine, 4-H club - etc*

When this man got in position where he could see Jesus.. Jesus saw him..This will always happen. Their eyes met and Jesus said, "This day I must abide at your house." Zacchaeus had met the conditions that will carry Jesus home with any one of us.

- a. He had a desire to see Jesus
- b. He made an effort to see Jesus
- c. He received Jesus joyfully

So Jesus went home with him. The church members all began to grumble about Jesus having gone home with that sinner. The church is not free from that yet. It takes this from to day that the people in the church are so sensitive about the preacher not coming to see them that a preacher actually does not have time to go to the sinners house. But while they scoured up and grumbled and criticised Jesus for going there and stamped Zacchaeus as a sinner...Zacchaeus was confessing his sins, offering to make restitution four for one and Jesus pronouncing the blessing of salvation up on him.

☞ Notice six things that happened:

- a. Zacchaeus desired to see Jesus
- b. He overcame physical barriers to see Jesus
- c. Jesus saw him
- d. Jesus abode at his house
- e. He consecrated his wealth to the right
- f. Salvation came....

and may stand between Mr. Haley & Sept. 14 years - lives 8 miles from church -