



Ever since Luke 9:51 in Luke's Gospel, Jesus' face had been "set" to go to Jerusalem where he would offer himself up as the Lamb provided by God for the sins of all the world. Along the way, he passed through Jericho.

He entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. 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." So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." 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 fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

(Luke 19:1-10)

Luke tells us that as the crowd heard these things, Jesus proceeded to tell them a parable (19:11-27) and after that, Jesus makes his triumphal entrance into Jerusalem (19:28-40). But before he did, he took the time to share good news with a chief tax collector. What can we learn from Zacchaeus? Is there anything we should learn from those who grumbled about Jesus' interaction with this chief tax collector? Most importantly of all, what can we learn from Jesus? We want to cross paths with him and follow him for the rest of our lives. Let's dig in...





For Class & Family Discussion:

1. It's hard for us to imagine what must have been going through Jesus' mind as he approached Jerusalem, knowing what was about to be done to him (Luke 18:31-34). Is it always easy to treat other people with love and respect when we're personally stressed? With everything on his mind, how *could* Jesus have treated Zacchaeus? Instead, what can we learn from the way he *did* treat Zacchaeus?
2. Why did the people who saw and heard what Jesus said to Zacchaeus grumble? What did their grumbling say about them? Can any of us today be guilty of the same sort of grumbling? If so, why is that a big (and dangerous) deal?
3. Why do you think Zacchaeus said what he said in 19:8? In our last lesson, we talked about the rich young ruler (Mark 10:17-31). Both of these men were rich, important people. As they crossed paths with Jesus, how did they react differently?
4. In 19:9, Jesus said, "Today salvation has come to this house." What did he mean by that? Who is able to talk like that and say that sort of thing?
5. Finally, let's listen carefully to what Jesus said in 19:10. In your own words, what is he saying? Why does it matter? In what ways should that mission statement shape the way we—as his disciples—see and treat other people?
6. So what about us? We want not only to "cross paths" with Jesus, but to walk with him as his disciples. So what should we carry away with us from this interaction with Zacchaeus?