

Lesson 26: The Story of Zacchaeus

Objective: To learn that Jesus cares and He hears the prayer of even one single person.

Background: For the past few months (maybe six), since He left Galilee, Jesus has been traveling the countryside of Judea and Perea teaching the disciples, the crowd, and even the religious leaders who opposed His ministry. But His ministry is now coming to an end. When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, the Jewish leaders were angry and decided to get rid of Jesus. They agreed to kill Jesus as soon as they got a chance. Please read John 11:45-57.

Instructions: Imagine you were at the scene as you read Luke 18:31-43; 19:1-10. Please act out the story of Zacchaeus in the class.

Let's Think:

Near Jericho, Jesus and His disciples were going to Jerusalem for the Passover and they were accompanied by an enthusiastic crowd. Jesus was sad in His heart because He knew He would die in Jerusalem and this would be his last time traveling this road. A blind beggar by the road was very excited when he learned that Jesus was passing by because he "saw" his opportunity had come.

1. What did the people tell the blind beggar when he cried out to Jesus for help? Did the people care? Was the blind man discouraged? Give an example. By the way, what did the blind beggar want from Jesus? Money? Explain.

2. Was Jesus too busy to hear the cry of the blind beggar? Did He care? Explain

At Jericho, a beautiful wealthy city 15 miles Northeast of Jerusalem, there was a rich man named Zacchaeus. He was the director of the revenue office (a tax collector) and was a lonely man, hated by all the Jews in town. When the news of Jesus' passing through the town came, Zacchaeus was determined to catch a glimpse of Jesus.

3. Why did Zacchaeus have to climb a tree to see Jesus? By the way, do you think he would feel comfortable standing among the crowd? Explain.

4. How did Zacchaeus come to meet Jesus? Had he expected that? How do you describe Zacchaeus when he is coming down from the tree? Why?

5. Were the Jews happy when Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house? Explain. And what did Jesus tell the Jews? Tell in your own words.

6. Compare Zacchaeus with the blind man and list how both were alike and unlike, then tell how their lives were changed, simply because Jesus cared.

Are you feeling lonely or rejected? Are you feeling misunderstood, hurt, or like nobody cares? Do you know Jesus cares? Why don't you tell Him about it?

Let's Remember: "Cast all your anxieties (worries) on Him (Jesus), for He cares about you."
(1Peter 5:7)

