

Lesson 26: The Story of Zacchaeus

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

Background: The so called "Later Judean Ministry" is now coming to a close. For the past few months (maybe six months) after He had left Galilee, Jesus had been traveling the country side of Judea and Perea teaching the disciples, the crowd, and even His opponents, the religious leaders. But, when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead near the end of this period (John 11: 1-44), the opposition to His ministry was turned into a plot against His life. The Jewish leaders agreed to kill Him at the first opportunity. Read John 11:45-57.

Instruction: Imagine you were at the scene among the crowd as you read Luke 18:31-43; 19:1-10.

Let's Think:

Jesus was instructing the disciples as they were going up to Jerusalem together for the last time. They were accompanied by a band of jubilant pilgrims who were also going up for the feast.

1. How did Jesus intimate to the disciples that this would be His final trip to Jerusalem? (Lk. 18:31-33). Why did the disciples fail to understand Him? Does Mark 10:32-45, Luke 19:11 shed light as to why? What lesson can be learned from this?
2. When the *blind* beggar by the roadside *saw* his opportunity, what did he do with it? Did he let the opportunity pass him by? (Lk 18: 35-39). What qualities do you see in this blind beggar? (Lk 18:35-43).
3. Was Jesus *too occupied to heed* the cry of a needy person? Explain.

Jericho was a beautiful, wealthy city about 15 miles Northeast of Jerusalem. (Lk. 19: 1-10).

4. How did Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus come about? Who took the initiative? How do you describe the man, as he was coming down the tree? Why?
5. Did the towns-people, the Jews, appreciate Jesus' friendship/association with Zacchaeus? Explain. Was Jesus a "conformist"? Explain. (LK 19:9, 10).
6. Compare and contrast the two incidents: Zacchaeus and the blind man, and explain how each life was transformed because *Jesus cared*.
7. Do you think the church should be known as "a caring community"? Discuss. What is your church known for? Reflect on it. Do you believe that Jesus cares and He always has your best interest in mind?

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