

# Jesus and Zaccheus Luke 19:1-10

by R.A. Torrey

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*Jesus seeks out and saves sinners, transforming them through the power of the Gospel.*

Topics: "Salvation", "Transformation"

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## Description

R.A. Torrey explores the transformative encounter between Jesus and Zaccheus, emphasizing how Zaccheus, a despised tax collector, sought Jesus despite societal obstacles. He highlights that Jesus, knowing Zaccheus by name, called him down from the tree, demonstrating His willingness to associate with sinners and offer salvation. The sermon illustrates that true conversion leads to genuine repentance and restitution, as seen in Zaccheus' joyful response to Jesus' call. Torrey contrasts the reactions of the crowd with the joy of salvation that came to Zaccheus' house, underscoring the nature of Jesus' mission to seek and save the lost. Ultimately, the message conveys that salvation is available to all, regardless of their past, and is marked by a profound change in character and actions.

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## Transcript

### DISCOVERY OF THE FACTS

1. Zaccheus Seeking Jesus, vv. 1-4 Whither was Jesus journeying as He passed through Jericho? For what purpose was He going to Jerusalem? How much was He taken up with the object of that journey? (Mark 10:32; Luke 12:50.) For what purpose did He delay in the journey and the execution of this absorbing purpose? For what purpose was Jesus always ready to stop, no matter how engrossing was the object He was pursuing? What was the name of the sinner He stopped to save? What did his name mean?

Did his character justify his name? What do we know about his character (vv. 2, 3, 8)? How was he regarded by his fellow citizens (v. 7)? What did he possess that would naturally commend him to public favor? Why did not his wealth win him a place in public esteem? Did his wealth prevent his being saved? Why not? Is it an easy thing to save a rich man? (Luke 18:24.) Why was it that the rich man of the 18th chapter was lost and the rich man of this chapter was saved? Which was the more amiable man of the two?

More moral? More religious? Higher in social esteem? Apparently easier to save? How often is it the case that the more amiable, moral, religious, honored and apparently hopeful man is lost and the more immoral, irreligious, repulsive and hopeless one saved? Which, in reality, is it easier to reach with the Gospel--nice,

moral, amiable people, or immoral, unattractive and disagreeable people? Why? What was the first step in Zaccheus' salvation? What is the best thing any lost sinner like Zaccheus can do?

Was anyone seeking Zaccheus? Why was Zaccheus seeking to see Jesus? Why had he not sought to see Him before? Had he heard anything about Jesus that drew him toward Him? How far would he have gone out of his way to have seen one of the ordinary rabbis of that time? What drew him? If we want to win men, how must we treat them? What obstacles did Zaccheus find in the way of getting to Jesus? How many of those who wish to get to Jesus find obstacles in the way? How many obstacles that cannot be overcome are there between men and Jesus?

How many men were there in that crowd that had apparently a better chance of seeing Jesus that day and getting a blessing from Him than Zaccheus? Why, then, did Zaccheus get the blessing and they not? How did Zaccheus overcome the disadvantage of his small stature? What kind of a proceeding on the part of Zaccheus was climbing, etc.? How would his proceeding be treated by the crowd? Is there any lesson in this for us? 2. Jesus Seeking Zaccheus, vv. 5-10 What did Jesus do when He came to the place?

How did Jesus know Zaccheus was up there? (John 1:48; 10:3.) How did He know his name? Why did He call him by his name? (Is. 43:1; John 10:3.) What did He tell Zaccheus to do? Why make haste? How often is there any time for delay if one would find Jesus? (Is. 55:6.) What if Zaccheus had not made haste? Why is it many men never find Jesus and are lost forever? Why was it that Jesus must abide at the house of Zaccheus? (Compare John 4:4.) Why must He abide there that day? Had Zaccheus invited Jesus to His house?

Why not? Does Jesus ever go where He is not wanted? Does He ever come in in a way fuller than we dare ask? What was the most honored home in Jericho that day? Is Jesus willing to abide with us? (John 14:23; Rev. 3:20.) What was the feeling of Zaccheus when these words of Jesus fell upon his ear? What did he do? What was the character of Zaccheus' obedience? Was it strange that Zaccheus was so glad to receive Jesus into his home? What would have been strange? What strange thing do we see today?

What is shown by this prompt and joyous reception of Jesus to have been lurking behind Zaccheus' curiosity to see Jesus? How often had Zaccheus been treated with the kindness and respect with which Jesus treated him? What was the effect of this kindness? Had severity and contempt humbled or converted him? Who was glad besides Zaccheus? How did the people feel when they saw Jesus enter the house of Zaccheus? How ought they to have felt? Did they murmur the same thing on any other occasion? (7:34, 39; 15:2.)

Are there any like these murmurers today? Would Jesus consort with sinners if He was on earth today? Ought we to do so? For what purpose? With what sort of sinners is Jesus willing to abide? Was Zaccheus converted? Regenerated? How did he show the genuineness of his conversion? What will genuine conversion always effect? (A man's pocket-book.) What about conversion that does not effect a man's pocket-book? Ought a converted man to make restitution? Suppose he does not? Ought he to give half of his goods to the poor? (Luke 12:33; 1 Tim. 6:17, 18.)

Which was the easier part that Zaccheus undertook to do--give half his goods to the poor, or to restore fourfold what he had taken by false accusation? Would it have been right for Zaccheus to give all the goods he had in his possession to the poor? What was it that changed Zaccheus from a hard-fisted extortioner into an honest, large-hearted, self-forgetting saint? How many more wonderful illustrations of the power of the Gospel than this are there in the Bible? Did Zaccheus lose anything by parting with his earthly goods?

(Mark 10:29, 30.)

What did Jesus say at this point? In what way had salvation come to this house? What is the only way in which salvation comes to any house? Was it to Zaccheus alone that salvation had come? What is indicated as to the character of salvation by the use of the word "today"? Why had salvation come to that house? In what sense was he a son of Abraham? (Gal. 3:7.) What kind of a son of Abraham was he as indicated by verse 10? What was Christ's purpose in uttering these words? For what purpose did Jesus say He had come?

Who was it came? For whom did He come? For what did He come? If one is to be saved, what must he first be? In what sense is man lost? When will men out of Christ be lost? What two seekers does this lesson show us? Did Zaccheus seek Jesus first or Jesus Zaccheus? What was the effect when each found the other? (v. 6; 15:5.) CLASSIFICATION OF TEACHINGS

### 1. Zaccheus

He was a sinner, 7; was despised, 7; had been absorbed in money-getting, 3; was dishonest, 8; was rich, 2; was dissatisfied, 3, 6; Jesus sought him, 5, 10; he sought Jesus, 3; was in earnest, (1) surmounted difficulties, (2) sacrificed dignity, (3) disregarded ridicule, 4; Jesus called him, 5; he responded to the call joyfully, 6; he responded to the call without delay, 6; genuinely converted, made restitution, used his money for Christ, 8.

Saved:

By believing, 9; immediately, 9; with his house, 9.

### 2. Jesus and Sinners

Jesus loves sinners, 5; seeks sinners, 10; deals tenderly with sinners, 5; associated with sinners, 7; endured contempt for sinners, 7; saves sinners, 10; transforms sinners, 8; rejoices over saved sinners, 9.

### 3. Salvation

(1). Its author:

The Son of Man, 10.

(2). Its objects:

The lost, 10.

(3). Its nature:

Immediate, 9; transforming, 8; joyful, 6; for the whole household, 9.

(4). How gained:

By faith, 9.

(5). How lost:

By delay, 5.

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