

Groups.

The story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19) shows what happens when someone truly encounters Jesus. Though wealthy yet despised, Zacchaeus longed for more. He climbed a tree just to see Jesus - and Jesus called him by name, entering his home and changing his life forever.

True encounters with Christ bring transformation. Zacchaeus didn't just feel different; he acted - giving to the poor and making restitution. Authentic faith always overflows into action.

God is looking for our "yes." He doesn't just want a Sunday moment; He wants every part of our lives - mess and all. We are not saved to sit but to serve, each of us uniquely designed to play a part in His story.

If you've been holding back, today is the day to say, "Come in, Lord." He isn't put off by your mess - He is the answer. Let Him in, and let Him use you for His glory.

REFLECTION

Share something that stood out from the Sunday message 'What Happened to Zack?!'.

MESSAGE POINTS

One: Seize the Opportunity - Say Yes to God's Call

God often presents us with defining moments, opportunities to respond to His prompting and step into something new. Zacchaeus could have let the crowd, his reputation, or his own insecurities hold him back, but instead, he seized the moment and said yes to Jesus. Our "yes" to God opens the door to His supernatural work in our lives, leading us into purpose and blessing we could never achieve on our own. When you sense God's Spirit stirring your heart, don't delay or make excuses; today is the day to respond and step into what He has for you.

Hebrews 3:15 (ESV)

As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

Discussion

- **What are some “crowds” in your life - pressures, fears, or voices - that make it hard to say yes to God’s prompting, and how can you push past them like Zacchaeus did?**
- **Think of a time when you said yes to God, even though it was uncomfortable - what fruit or blessing came from that decision?**
- **How can we cultivate a posture of readiness so that when God calls, our instinct is to respond immediately instead of delaying or making excuses?**

Two: Jesus In Every Room - Even the Messy Ones

Jesus desires more than a fleeting encounter; He wants a deep, ongoing relationship that reaches into every part of our lives, even the places we try to hide. Like Zacchaeus, who welcomed Jesus into his home without pretence, we are invited to open every “room” of our hearts - our struggles, addictions, doubts, and pain - to Him. Jesus is not offended by our mess; He is drawn to it, ready to bring healing, freedom, and transformation. Don’t keep any area off-limits - let Him in, and watch as He brings new life where you need it most.

Revelation 3:20 (ESV)

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

Discussion

- **Why do you think it’s so easy to let Jesus into some “rooms” of our lives but keep other areas closed off?**
- **What might change in your life, relationships, or habits if you truly invited Jesus into every part - even the messy and hidden places?**
- **How can we as a group create safe spaces for one another to be honest about our “mess” and encourage each other to let Jesus transform it?**

Three: You Are Blessed to Be a Blessing - Step Into God’s Adventure

God’s heart is not only to bless you but to empower you to be a blessing to others. Like Abraham, who was called out of comfort into a new adventure, and like Zacchaeus, whose encounter with Jesus led him to generosity, we are invited to step out in faith and play our part in God’s mission. This may feel risky or uncomfortable, but God promises His presence and provision as we follow Him. You are not just saved for yourself - you are called to make a difference in the world around you.

Genesis 12:1-3 (ESV)

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonours you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Discussion

- **Why do you think God so often links blessing with mission - receiving His goodness and then sharing it with others?**
- **Can you think of a time when stepping out of your comfort zone to bless someone else ended up blessing you in return? What did you learn from that experience?**
- **What might change in our community if each of us took seriously the call to live as "blessed to be a blessing" every day?**

Four: You Are Needed - Play Your Part in God's Family

Every believer is uniquely created and called by God to contribute to His work; there are no unnecessary or unworthy members in His family. The enemy may whisper that you are not needed, not ready, or too broken, but God says you are His masterpiece, created for good works. The church is a body, and every part matters - seen or unseen, strong or weak. Don't let fear, shame, or passivity keep you on the sidelines. It's time to get up, take your place, and let God use you for His glory and the good of others.

Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Discussion

- **What lies or doubts have you believed that make it hard to see yourself as valuable and needed in God's family? How does Ephesians 2:10 speak against those lies?**
- **When have you experienced the blessing of someone else playing their part in the body of Christ? How did it impact your faith or sense of belonging?**
- **What unique gifts, experiences, or passions has God placed in you that could be used to build up others if you stepped out and offered them?**

WATCH

<https://www.youtube.com/@LIFEMelbourne/videos>

NEW SERVICE!

We Are excited to announce that from Sunday 12 October, the new 1.30pm service is launching!! Together with our 9am, 11am and 6pm services, we are following God's leading, putting out another jar for God to pour into, so we can increasingly reach Melbourne with the hope and love of Jesus.

This isn't just about another service - it's about:

- **Making room for more** – more people, more families, more of our city encountering Jesus.
- **Preparing for West** – gathering and empowering a team so we are ready when God opens the door for a new campus.
- **Ownership for everyone** – creating opportunities for all of us to engage our God-given part.
- **God's blueprint** – a multiplication model that sets us up for what God has ahead.

Every faith step requires a stretch, but as we multiply, our prayer is that it will be done in strength.

As we take this God-led step of obedience, we carry an expectation that it will enable many to step up in ownership and engage their God-given part. If LIFE is your home but you're yet to play your part, we'd love to have you join a great team across any one of the four Sunday services.



If you love church, this is how you can help others to love it too!

Do you love to make people smile? Do you love to make someone's day? Do you love helping others?

We believe that serving on team is an expression of love for God, the church and others, so check out some of the ways that you can make a difference on team, doing the things that you love!

Play My Part - <https://lifeau.org/playmypart/#findateam>

GROUP PRAYER POINTS

Pray for each other's personal journey as a disciple and discipleship in our church

- Being in the presence of Jesus, becoming more like Jesus and continuing the work He did.

Pray for the Holy Spirit's presence

- That we would be led, filled and empowered to live surrendered, love God and serve others.

Pray for Decade of Destiny

- **Debt Free on Sims and Stage One** Believe that we could be debt free on the purchase of Sims St and the stage one fit-out costs.
- **Launch Two New LIFE Campuses** That we would pioneer two additional LIFE campuses across Melbourne and continue to make room for more people to discover the wonder of Jesus, find their family and step into all that God leads.
- **LIFE Homes** To have short-, medium- and long-term accommodation navigable to enable emergency support, crisis help and essential care to key areas of vulnerability.
- **Education Services Engaged** It is our vision that we will have multiple pathways that we will be able to bring lasting transformation to our communities through learning and education and reverse the cycle of poverty.
- **Sims Street Revival** God is entrusting us to first and foremost lift up the names of Jesus and see many thousands upon thousands discover His eternal life.

UPCOMING DATES

29th September – Help & Hope week

9th October – Alpha

13th October – LIFE Business Night

19th October – Water Baptism