

Discussion & Reflection Questions

Pentecost 21C - 30th of October 2022

Read Luke 19.1-10

¹ He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ² A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵ 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.' ⁶ So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷ All who saw it began to grumble and said, 'He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.' ⁸ Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.' ⁹ Then Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'

Discussion & Reflection Questions

- When did you first come across Zacchaeus & how have you pictured him?
- "Short in stature" may be both physical & metaphoric... how do you think Zacchaeus was viewed by those around him? Do you think it is fair to judge people without really knowing them?
- Zacchaeus was seen as "one of those types of people"... what types of people groups do we tend to pre-judge in our culture?
- Have you ever been looked down on? Has anyone ever looked up to you? How do those experiences make you feel?
- Jesus sees Zacchaeus as he is & as an individual not as part of a sub-set determined by his occupation or background. How does it feel knowing God sees you like this?
- The crowd grumble because Jesus notices Zacchaeus. How can we be sure that we don't end up grumbling about what is going on in our world?
- Imagine how thankful Zacchaeus was to encounter Jesus. How can we have a similar thankfulness?

Prayer of the week

God our Father, whose will it is to bring all things to order and unity in our Lord Jesus Christ: may all the peoples of the world, now divided and torn apart by sin, be brought together under his sovereign rule of love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.