



WEEKLY STUDY

Jesus on Money - Week Two

It's amazing how money can influence our behavior, even when we aren't paying attention. Our daily rhythms, our interactions with others, even the way we seem to value others is impacted by money and our pursuit of *stuff*. For Zacchaeus, it's equally amazing how, in an instant, money can become the least important thing in our lives. A major life-change or loss can put the role of money in its place. For the notorious tax collector, it was the spectacle of Jesus approaching that led him to change his behavior and climb a tree. It was his encounter with Jesus that led him to change his life forever. His heart was changed and he saw people a little more like Jesus did. As you spend time in his story this week, may you notice where there might be room in your own life to realign your heart to what is ultimately important.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 19.1-10 (ESV)

He entered Jericho and was passing through. ² And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. ⁴ So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. ⁵ And 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 and came down and received him joyfully. ⁷ And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." ⁸ And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." ⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

- Jericho was known as a major center for the collection of taxes. Zacchaeus was responsible for training and supervising all of the tax collectors. Because he controlled so much, he was able to enrich himself through a system of taxation and power. He had power and wealth, but he didn't have height. When he knew that Jesus was coming his way, he climbed up in a tree in order to see. With all of the attention on Jesus, he probably felt safe and inconspicuous in the tree. Who would notice him up there? I wonder how much of his life was lived like that, hovering in the background of the scene. Maybe this was a new feeling for him. Do you ever feel like you are just an observer of the things that are happening around you? What is it like to have a decent vantage point but to remain unseen? Are there advantages or disadvantages to hiding?
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- **Prayer Prompt: Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. (Hebrews 4.13)**
- *God, I know that I am known by you. But I don't always live like it. Even when I make an effort to get to you, like Zacchaeus in the tree, I wonder if I am just a spectator. See me and call to me today. Amen.*

TUESDAY: LUKE 19.1-10 (ESV)

- While Zacchaeus may have felt out of the fray perched up in the tree, Jesus noticed him. What caused Jesus to look up? How did he know who Zacchaeus was? Maybe it was simply his divine awareness that informed Jesus. Have you ever wondered if Jesus can see you, if Jesus can really know all about you? In the space below, respond to Jesus as someone who sees you and knows you. Does it bring comfort and/or confession?
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- **Prayer Prompt: The word of the LORD came to me, saying,**
⁵**“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; (Jeremiah 1.4-5)**
- *Jesus, I am amazed and humbled to be a part of your story. You came to save the whole world, and in so doing, you came to save me. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: LUKE 19.1-10 (ESV)

- Jesus tells Zacchaeus to “hurry down” from the tree and then invites himself over to his house—*TODAY*. There was an urgency in Jesus’ words. Why do you think that is? You might often find yourself in a situation where you have an inclination to delay. *Yes, I’ll pray for you (the next time I pray)*. Or, *we really ought to get together sometime. Check your calendar and let me know!* For Jesus, this needed to happen immediately. Come out of the tree, and I’ll see you at your house. Was there time to pick up the house and prepare some food? Remember, Jesus was headed towards Jerusalem. It was his next stop. And the change that was needed in Zacchaeus’ life was pretty drastic as well. What if Jesus urgently wants to come into your life in a powerful way? How do you respond?
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- **Prayer Prompt: And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. (Romans 13.11)**
- *God, I know that the gift of your Son is the ultimate sign of your heart for us. You didn’t delay in sending him. You sent him right on time. And yet I look forward to his return. Don’t delay! Amen.*

THURSDAY: LUKE 19.1-10 (ESV)

- Zacchaeus welcomed Jesus into his home gladly—with great joy. Instead of focusing on shame for his unfair business practices, Zacchaeus was delighted to host such a high profile guest. In that culture, the very act of sitting down with someone for a meal was a sign of acceptance—a desire to share life. Jesus was sharing his life with a despised man. This reality could impact who we see as redeemable. It might help to believe that we could even be among those who receive his salvation. Picture the scene of salvation coming to your house today. What would be different about your day?
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- **Prayer Prompt: Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. (Romans 15.7)**
- *God, I sometimes think of my home or some other particular place as a hiding place from the outside world. But it is not a hiding place from you. You are welcome there. You are welcome here. Amen.*

FRIDAY: LUKE 19.1-10 (ESV)

- In this story, Zacchaeus has gone from a despised scoundrel or a man to a follower of Jesus. The evidence of that is in his response to Jesus. He is sorry for what he has done. And he develops a plan to make things right by restoring all that he has stolen and then repaying it four fold. The rule in such a circumstance would have been full repayment plus 20%. Zacchaeus blows by that rule in order to seek justice and extend grace and mercy. His heart was already being transformed before this big act. It appears that he was being generous with what was not really his to begin with. But what was really happening was an outflow of sitting in the presence of Jesus. When was the last time you sat with Jesus? What fruit flows from such an encounter?
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- **Prayer Prompt: And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2.6-7)**
- *God, thank you for coming close so that we could see you in Jesus. As I sit with him in quiet times here on earth, I imagine the banquet table in heaven where I can one day sit forever! Amen.*

SATURDAY: LUKE 19.1-10 (ESV)

- *Today salvation has come to this house.* Remember the urgency of Jesus' declaration to Zacchaeus while he was in the tree? *Today!* The salvation that comes after repentance and a changed heart is also immediate. We often think of salvation as being something that is far off. We think it is realized after we die and go to heaven. Jesus declared that Zacchaeus and his household would experience a bit of heaven that very day! Do you think of salvation as something that is possible to experience today?
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- **Prayer Prompt: Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. (Revelation 3.20)**
- *God, I am ready to experience your salvation today. Remind me today that what you did for me in Jerusalem changes my life today. Amen.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

Reread Luke 19.9-10. *“Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”*

In Sunday’s message, Pastor Jacob reminded us of an unchangeable truth: we are all children of God and people of worth. (COGPOW)

- Is there someone in your life or in the community who needs to know that they are a COGPOW?
- Who will tell them?
- How might you declare Christ’s salvation in someone else’s life this week?