

## Zacchaeus Sunday

Luke 19:1-10

And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house. And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.  
(KJV)

The arrival of Zacchaeus Sunday increases attention to the condition of the soul and the need to act. Zacchaeus was blessed to come face-to-face with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus came to Zachaeus' home. Jesus and Zacchaeus interacted. They conversed in ways beneficial for Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus honestly and forthrightly told Jesus the actions he was taking to correct the wrongs in his life.

The Gospel tells us salvation came to Zacchaeus' house that day. Jesus came to save Zachaeus. Jesus saves the lost. There is much to learn from this Gospel. Truth, honesty and being direct with Jesus are important lessons.

Being willing to correct the wrongs in life in front of Jesus is an important lesson. Jesus' willingness to listen and understand the sincerity of Zacchaeus' acting to correct the wrongs in his life is apparent.

Jesus is present in each home. Jesus is willing to listen to each person willing to confess his or her wrongs and correct them. Jesus is present in each family member, friend or co-worker with whom correcting a relationship is beneficial.

The Scriptures are clear that each person is created in the image and likeness of God. (Gen.1:26) The Gospel of St. Matthew speaks about Jesus being present in each person in our lives. (Mt.25:31-46)

The relationships we have determine our salvation. The relationships believers have in daily life are the active relationships with Jesus Christ. The way husbands and wives treat each other reflects their relationship with Christ.

Parents' relationships with their children and sons and daughters' relationships with their parents affect their salvation and the final judgment before Christ. Employer and employee relationships will be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Zacchaeus used his direct experience with Jesus Christ for the salvation of his soul. Each person has daily opportunities to sincerely correct the wrongs in his or her life and make a lasting difference with Christ.

It is courageous for a husband or wife to admit his or her wrongs in the marriage relationship and to take honest steps to rectify the relationship. Sincerely repentant prodigal sons or daughters make a lasting difference in family life.

Jesus Christ gives each person the opportunity to repent. Repentance is possible when life exists in the body and the mind functions. Jesus is always present and willing to listen to confessions.

Jesus is always present to forgive and enable believers to begin anew. Zacchaeus' sin did not hold him back. Zacchaeus' willingness to acknowledge and correct the wrongs in his life made a deciding difference.

God's Holy Church proclaims the Gospel about Zacchaeus each year to get believers' attention. The Gospel intends to motivate believers to repent and seek a wholesome relationship with Jesus Christ.

The relationship with Jesus Christ and the relationships in daily life are inseparable. The relationship with Jesus Christ is defined and characterized by relationships in daily life.

Improving our relationship with Jesus Christ involves improving our daily relationship. Being willing to begin again and correct any past wrongs in daily relationships is a way to begin anew in Christ.

Starting anew in relationships can seem difficult and may at first even seem insurmountable. Jesus made clear that "With God all things are possible." (Mt. 19:26) Maintaining hope and seeking to try with Christ's help is the way to begin.

Relationships in parish life also require periodic renewal. God is ever-present to spur, guide and enable the renewal to occur. Parishes go through periods when corrections are needed.

The parish church is the Body of Christ. Relationships in the parish always have the goal of growing and maturing in Christ. The encouragement of repentance and the offering of Communion spur the growth of the parish.

Drawing wisdom from the Lord God and heeding the lessons of the Gospel lead to improved daily relationships and improved relationships with Christ. Being attentive to the Gospel lessons is always important.

Love for God is manifested in daily relationships. Love for God is proven in the relationships in the home, at work and in the community. Parishes are where believers are expected to perfect their relationships with Jesus Christ.

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Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord. Zacchaeus Sunday. February 5/18, 2024.  
Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic