



Dig Deeper Study Guide

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church - February 3, 2013

Sermon

Conversations with Jesus-
Who did Jesus talk with
and what does this teach
us?

Zacchaeus
Luke 19:1-10
by Bob Shank

Things I want to remember
about this sermon...

Monday 2/4/13
Luke 19:1

Jesus was going through Jericho. Jericho was a Palestinian town near the Jordan river on the West Bank. It is described as the "city of Palm trees." Jericho was also the city described in the book of Joshua that the Israelites marched around for seven days and on the seventh day the city walls came tumbling down! Jericho had a long, rich history and it was into this town that Jesus was entering.

Tuesday 2/5/13
Luke 19:2

Zacchaeus lived in Jericho and he was a tax collector. This might not mean all that much to us, but in Jesus' day tax collectors were hated by the Hebrew people. You see, the tax collectors were collecting taxes for the hated Roman Empire. It was bad enough that their money was going to the Romans, but tax collectors would also tax advantage of their position and cheat their own people. Tax collectors were despised by most people in Jesus' day. Zacchaeus was a tax collector and he was rich.

Wednesday 2/6/13
Luke 19:3-4

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus to see who he was, but there was a problem. The crowd was pressing in on Jesus and the crowd was large. The problem was that Zacchaeus was short and he could not see Jesus. So he ran in front of the crowd, in the direction Jesus was going, and he climbed up into a tree--a sycamore tree. Zacchaeus planned ahead well because now Jesus was going to pass by this way and Zacchaeus would be able to see Jesus! To what lengths would you go to see Jesus?



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Things to do this week in response to the sermon...

What was it about Jesus that Zacchaeus was so interested in to make him climb a tree to get a closer look?

Are you willing to open your house so Jesus can come in?

Think about Zacchaeus and his determination to see Jesus. How can you be more like Zacchaeus?

Thursday 2/7/13
Luke 19:5-6

Jesus came by the sycamore tree. He looked up and saw Zacchaeus. And he told him to hurry down from the tree because Jesus said, "Today I must stay at your house." Zacchaeus obeyed Jesus' command immediately. He hurried down the tree and welcomed Jesus into his house. This point is significant. Zacchaeus was a hated tax collector and Jesus was staying at his house. Good Jews just did not do this! But Jesus did! What does it say to you that Jesus wanted to go to Zacchaeus' house?

Friday 2/8/13
Luke 19:7-8

Those who observed this murmured to each other and said Jesus was staying in the house of a sinful man. Meanwhile, Zacchaeus made a very bold decision. He decided to give half of his goods to the poor. Furthermore, he was willing to restore fourfold anyone he accused falsely. In other words, he wanted to make amends for his wrongdoing. Zacchaeus wanted to set things straight. Do you feel the need to set anything straight in your life? Zacchaeus talked with Jesus and it changed his sinful life for the better. Talking with Jesus has a way of doing this.

Saturday 2/9/13
Luke 19:9-10

Jesus declared that the day of salvation had come to Zacchaeus' house that day. Jesus knew and proclaimed that Zacchaeus was the son of Abraham--connecting him to the lineage of his own people. Then Jesus made a statement about himself, saying that the Son of man had come to seek and save the lost. This was Jesus' task and purpose--to seek out and save the lost. Do you know Jesus? Do you talk with him?