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Doctrinal Studies Bible Church
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Series: The Road of Jericho Ministry

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Zaccheus' Celebrity Guest

During the month of November, we are studying a series entitled, **The Road of Jericho Ministry**, taken from the Book of Luke. The first two lessons gave us the names of the converts spoken of from that Road of Jericho Ministry (Bartimaeus and Zaccheus). In my NAS study Bible, Zaccheus is introduced as a tax-collector. Luke is the only gospel writer to tell this story.

This story occurred during the same period as the healing of Bartimaeus (Luke 18). In fact, Bartimaeus and much of this crowd could be the ones travelling with Jesus as He enters Jericho. Luke gives a seven-fold description of Zaccheus (chief tax-collector, rich, small in stature, son of Abraham, sinner, lost, and in need of salvation).

This lesson will study <u>five aspects</u> of Zaccheus' Celebrity Guest.

In this account Jesus did something that shocked everyone. Entering the city of Jericho and seeing 'a man' high in a tree, supposedly to get the best view, He called out loudly "Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house." (Lk.19:5) An interesting note here is that Jesus "knew" Zaccheus - and - Zaccheus was about to "know" Him!

1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following seven homiletic points.

- **Rich man from Jericho** (Lk.19:1-2)
 - Zaccheus (Zachariah / the righteous one) a chief tax collector.
- **Ran and climbed into a sycamore tree** (Lk.19:3-4)
 - Jesus, a celebrity came to Jericho – Zaccheus was a kid at heart – "wanting to see".
- **Request to stay at his house** (Lk.19:5-6)
 - Jesus' shocking request – to both His disciples and to Zaccheus.
- **Rebuke from legalism** (Lk.19:7)
 - Jesus, a guest of a known sinner? – "All began to grumble."
- **Remuneration** (Lk.19:8)
 - Half to the poor and four times to any defrauded.
- **Revelation** (Lk.19:9)
 - "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham."
- **Regeneration** (Lk.19:10)
 - "For the Son of man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

2. It is interesting to watch the process of Zaccheus' attitude change toward the person of Jesus Christ.

- **Celebrity** came to Jericho (Lk.19:1-6) What he believed others believed.
- **Man of God** came to Jericho (Lk.19:7-8) What he believed for himself.
- **Savior** came to Zaccheus (Lk.19:9-10) What Jesus told him to believe to be born again.

3. The Road of Jericho Ministry teaches Ambassadors of Christ the importance of taking every opportunity every day in every way to share the gospel (2 Cor.5:17-21).

- Last week, Jesus went out of His way to minister to Bartimaeus on the Road to Jericho (Luke 18).
- This week, Jesus went out of His way to minister to Zaccheus on the Road to Jericho (Luke 19).

Imagine the shock Zaccheus must have felt when Jesus stopped at the sycamore tree to have a personal conversation with him (Lk.19:5)

Imagine the shock he must have felt when Jesus knew his name like Nathanael (John 1:47-51)

Imagine the shock he must have felt when Jesus requested to stay at his house in Jericho (2 Cor.6:2)

Imagine the shock he must have felt when Jesus explained how God loves the worst of sinners (1 Tim.1:15)

NOTE: Jesus only spoke twice in this story (Lk.19:5, 9-10).

4. While we might imagine the shock Zaccheus might have felt, we do not have to imagine the shock and distain the legalist felt about Jesus befriending Zaccheus.

(Lk.19:7) “When they saw it, they all began to grumble, saying, ‘He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.’”

The legalists in the crowd had earlier praised Jesus’ compassion for healing Bartimaeus. Now this same crowd is grumbling against Jesus’ compassion for Zaccheus because they consider him an unsavable sinner. Jericho was known as the city of priests and sinners.

- “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Lk.19:10)
- “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham.” (19:9; Gal.3:26-29, 16)

5. Both Bartimaeus and Zaccheus were outcasts of legalism for different reasons but Zaccheus was considered by legalism as the worst sinner.

(1 Tim.1:15) “It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.” (Paul was once one of these legalists)

Both men were saved on the same basis of grace through faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ (Gal.3:8; 1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16).

Doctrinal principle: None are so bad as to be excluded and none so good as to be included in grace salvation (Eph.2:8-9).

Doctrinal principle: “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not ours only, but also for those of the whole world.” (1 John 2:2) (Unlimited Atonement)

What a day in the life of Zaccheus!

A day he would never forget!

A day that has just started! (2 Cor.6:1-2)