

Luke 19:1-10 Of Guilt & Grace

Of Guilt and Grace

Zaccheus is not a funny story about a short guy who wants to see Jesus.

It's a story about how someone who is hated.

Zaccheus is not only short in stature.

He is short in moral standing.

He is short in social standing.

He has cheated people, he has selfishly looked out for himself.

He has been afraid and insecure with good reason.

A chief tax collector is a traitor to his people.

When he wants to catch a glimpse of this celebrated Jesus, no one helps him.

Do you know what it feels like to be ignored, discriminated against, hated?

There is a reason why Jesus stops, looks up at him and invites himself to his home.

Do remember that Jesus is a very dangerous guest at a meal.

He took the Pharisees to task in their home.

But Jesus here takes the initiative probably because Zaccheus would never think of it.

Why offer an invitation that will never be accepted?

Do you know what it feels like to think you deserve nothing?

Do you ever think that you are being punished by God for your sins?

Do you ever wonder if what has happened to you is because you are hated?

Something remarkable happens inside Zaccheus.

He gives half of everything he has to the poor.

He will return four times what he stole.

He repents. He changes.

But why?

Listen, Grace has the power to change a person's life.

From being hated, despised and ignored – and rightly so,

he becomes seen and favoured – even if it is only one person.

A person, even a broken and bad one,

can be changed by the love and concern of another.

I read in the paper yesterday, that 6 items that had been stolen 20 years ago from the Tomahawk in North Van had been returned.

I remember a friend of mine who after becoming a Christian, began sending money back to people he had stolen from with a letter of apology.

Have you ever been surprised by God's grace?

Has it ever changed you and the way you live because of it?

Jesus declares that salvation has come to this house.

That Zaccheus is a true son of Abraham – the father of faith
which must have rang in the ears of those who heard.

Jesus had come to seek and save what was lost.

How do you see the people around you?

How many people are hiding in the trees in your life?

Do you see them?

Because Jesus does.

So tell me, how has grace changed your life?