

## Being Hospitable

### Luke 19:1-10

*Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.*

*When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.*

*All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."*

*But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."*

*Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*



### Discussion Question

In this narrative, who is being hospitable?

Is it Jesus or Zacchaeus?

Why?

### Who is Zacchaeus?

**Diminutive** - He was short

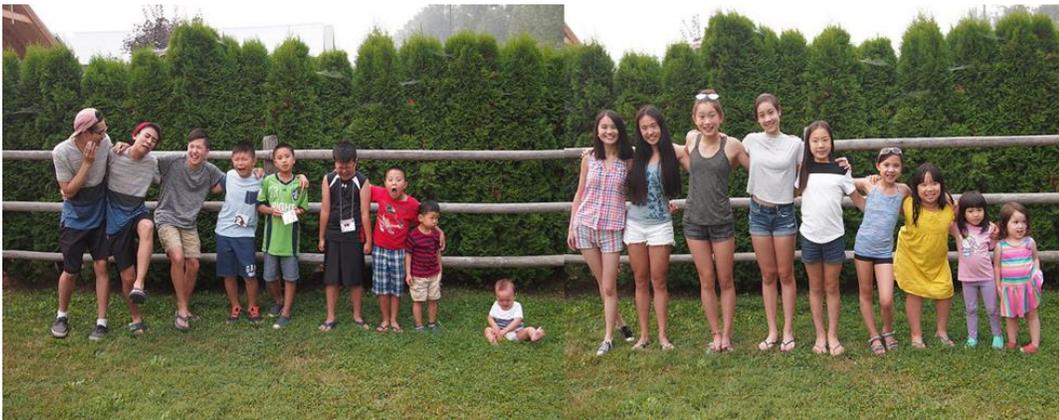


Anyone here wish they were taller?

Why does anyone want to be tall?  
It is an aspect of power and position.  
Saul was chosen as King of Israel because he was tall.

Reflection:

Physical dimensions affect how people look at us.  
But God sees us.  
Body image is important.  
Loving your body.  
Seeing your body.  
Not shaming, not embarrassed.  
"Jesus looked up and saw him."



Meditation:

Jesus notices you.  
"I See You."

Challenge:

Go and see the people around you.  
Look at them.  
Understand them.  
Have compassion on them.

**Despised**



"He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

Zacchaeus was the Chief Tax Collector.

When was the last time you thought positively about being taxed?

But this is worse - He was working for the Romans.

He was a collaborator.

He betrayed his own people.

It could have been that he grew wealthy because of his collaboration.

Despised for his work.

Despised for his collaboration.

Despised for his privilege.

### Reflection:

How do you see your work?

Do you feel valued?

Do you feel judged?

Do you feel you fall short?

What do others think of you for your position in life, your socio-economics?

Est Side, West Side, Privileged, Under Privileged, Ethnicity, Career?

Jesus not only saw Zacchaeus.

He did not despise him, judge him or condemn him.

He stopped and called him down by name.

He valued being with him - "I must stay at your house today."



### Meditation:

Jesus loves hanging out with you.

"I Like Being with You."

### Challenge:

Who are you apt to judge, avoid, dismiss or condemn?

How do you open your heart to those you make assumptions about?

This doesn't mean anything is okay, but do you listen and hear their story?

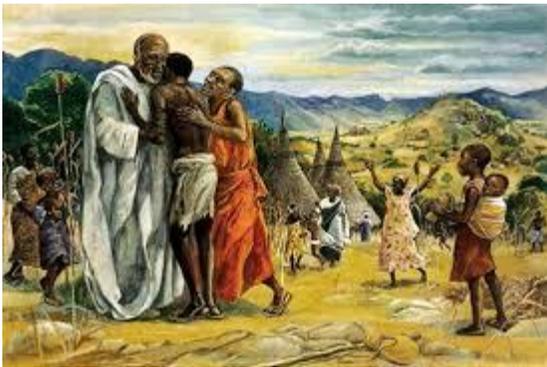
Do you understand them?

### **Transformation**

By including the excluded, Jesus did three things:



His hospitality brought Zacchaeus to the point of confession, restitution and transformation.  
*Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.*



His acceptance brought Zacchaeus back into community.  
*Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.*



His actions gave an example of how to be missional.  
*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.*  
This is reflection of John 3:17  
*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*

Without taking away from the missional reality of being a host,  
The Ministry of Receiving Hospitality is Also an Aspect of Missional.

**Waiting to be Welcomed**



Story of the person waiting to be welcomed in a church with a scowl on their face.

"I'm testing to see how hospitable this church is."

This person is a jerk.



Story of a newcomer wishing to be welcomed but then taking the initiative to say hello.

A longing for relationship and friendship.

You have to be a friend to have a friend.



The Ministry of Being Hospitable

It is about a way of being, a way of relating.

It is not about being an introvert or extrovert.

It is not about having much or having little.

It is about creating a safe place for another person.

You have the power to welcome every person you meet.

Start with a smile.