

Matthew 19 (NIV)

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.'

6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

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

8 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.'

9 Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.'

1

READ THIS

2

- Has there been a time when you have made an effort to be able to see someone special? What happened?

- Who do **you** think Jesus is?

- Imagine Jesus looked at you and said what He did in verse 5.

3

- What sort of reaction would you have?

- What do you think it was about Jesus that made Zacchaeus say what he said in verse 8?

- What do you think the word 'lost' means in v10? (In what way was Zacchaeus lost?)

- What does Jesus mean by 'salvation' in v9? (How did it apply to Zacchaeus?)

Looking at ourselves

4

Romans 3v23 says *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*
How does that verse help us to understand what *lost* means?

If Jesus looks at you like He looked at Zacchaeus, would He say that you were lost?

What would have happened to Zacchaeus if he had stayed lost?

Read Romans 6v23. The first half says

For the wages of sin is death,
What happens to us if we stay lost?

The Good News comes in the second half of Romans 6v23. Can you guess what it says? Someone look it up to see.

What do we have to do for Jesus to be able to say to us something like: *'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.'*?

5

Spend some time praying together about this now.

ZACCHAEUS

CURIOUS TO FIND OUT MORE

VERSES TO LEARN

Acts 4:12

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.

John 14:6

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me.

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