

The Story

And He entered and was passing through Jericho. And behold, there was a man whose name was called Zaccheus; and he was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he was seeking to see Jesus, who He was; and could not because of the crowd, for he was small in stature. And he ran on ahead and climbed up in a sycamore tree in order to see Him, for He was about to pass through that way.

And as He came to the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, "Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay in your house." And he hurried and came down, and received Him, rejoicing.

And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, "He has gone in to lodge with a sinful man."

And Zaccheus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, the half of my possessions, Lord, I give to the poor, and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore four times as much."

And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which is lost."

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An Explanation

- You have three characters in this story, Jesus, Zaccheus, and the crowd. Jesus came to the place to specifically seek and save a man.

- Jesus came to Zaccheus, and simply said, Hurry and come down, to receive Me into your house. There were no instructions to change his life, etc. And Zaccheus received Jesus. In the Psalms one man testified, "In your presence is fullness of joy." When Zaccheus opened his heart to the Lord, he found that fullness of joy, for he received Jesus rejoicing.

- The crowd had also been in the presence of Jesus, at least physically. But their hearts were not open to the Son of Man, to Jesus, and so they had no joy, only murmuring.

- Jesus gave no laws to Zaccheus, yet when Zaccheus received Jesus, he discovered the life-changing presence of the Lord. He found that salvation is so real, it is a living Christ within him.

- As he remained in the presence of the Savior, the Savior confirmed in Zaccheus' heart that salvation had come. When you open your heart to Jesus, when you receive Jesus into your house, it is salvation that comes into you, into your house.

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