

Jesus Sees You
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We live in a culture where everyone wants to be seen. Social media. American dream. Succeed. Famous. Wealthy.

Luke 19:1-9

Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. 2 There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. 3 He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.

5 When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today."

6 Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. 7 But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled.

8 Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"

9 Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man[a] came to seek and save those who are lost."

Some consider Verse 9 to be the "key verse" of Luke. Luke wants Theophilus to know the heart of Jesus' mission - To find and save the lost. Throughout Luke, we see the religious elite point fingers at the poor, the rich, the short, and the young. "Not them, they don't deserve to be seen by You. We've followed the laws to a T, we tithe, and we pray elegant prayers, we... We've climbed our trees to be seen by You. Zacchaeus doesn't deserve to be seen by you. "

Jesus says, "But I came for the broken. I came for those who are messed up enough to need my help. I came for the lost."

You might be here today and be like that's great. God sees me. I don't have to get His attention. I can come down from my tree. I don't want to get out of this place of obligation or "have to." I want to be so changed by the love of God that I'm compelled to

love. I want to love from a place of being loved, not in order to get something or to be seen by anyone. I just don't know how to get there. What in the world am I supposed to do?

“Jesus, there's a lot of trees I've been climbing recently. I really wanted to be seen. I thought you needed me to climb them. I now see that you already see me. You'd rather have relationship with me than all of these things I can do for You. These things matter but I matter more to You. I'm going down these trees. So I can be with You. Only You can change my heart.”

Going Deeper Care Group Discussion Guide

1. What are some “trees that you have climbed” in order to be seen by God or people?
2. How does it make you feel to know that Jesus sees you and loves you despite what you could ever do to accomplish for him?
3. What are some question ideas you could incorporate into your daily routine that create a space for you to be seen and loved on, by God?
(Sermon examples: What's one of your favorite things about me? How do you want to show me that you love me today?)
4. What things would change if you started living a life that was motivated by heart-transformation vs. behavior modification?