



**Preparing For His Coming  
Jesus: The Seeker  
Luke 19:1-10  
Westport Christian Church  
November 29, 2009**

"He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man called by the name of Zaccheus; he was a chief tax collector and he was rich. Zaccheus was trying to see who Jesus was, and was unable because of the crowd, for he was small in stature.

So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree in order to see Him, for He was about to pass through that way. When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house." And he hurried and came down and received Him gladly.

When they saw it, they all began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much."

And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:1-10)

Many of us know the song about this man named Zaccheus. Zaccheus was a wee little man, and a wee little man was he. He climbed up in that sycamore tree, for the Lord he wanted to see. And as the Savior passed

that way, He looked up in the tree, and He said, Zaccheus, you come down, for I'm going to your house today.

That song is based from our text today, but that song alone, does not get to the core of Zaccheus's problem or Jesus' solution.

In the book of Ezekiel we read, "For thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I Myself will search for My sheep and seek them out. "As a shepherd cares for his herd in the day when he is among his scattered sheep, so I will care for My sheep and will deliver them from all the places to which they were scattered on a cloudy and gloomy day. . . .16 "I will seek the lost, bring back the scattered, bind up the broken and strengthen the sick; but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with judgment." (Ezekiel 34:11-12, 16)

I want to make it very clear that Jesus came to seek us out and to save us from our sins. I also want to make it very clear that it is in His purpose that we find our purpose as well.

When we "put on Christ," we are also accepting His mission as our own. So, I want to use this text as a spring board to help us to prepare for His coming.

First, let's consider . . .

#### I. Jesus' Quest And Our Own.

In a testimony, an evangelist one time described his mother as being love personified. As a young boy, he found his mother one day sitting at a table talking with an old tramp. Apparently she had gone shopping, met this man along the way, and invited him home for a warm meal. During the conversation the old man said, "I wish there were more people like you in the world." Whereupon his mother replied, "Oh, there are. But you must look for them." To which the old man shook his head, saying, "But lady, I didn't need to look for you, you looked for me."

When that mother reflected her Christian kindness toward the old tramp, she did something more than simply offer him welfare. It was compassion that went out of its way to love the unlovely. (Source Unknown)

That is the story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. He came looking for us-the maimed-the lame- the bruised-the broken hearted- the wretched wander- the poor-the forgotten-the prisoner and the lonely rich.

The quest actually began in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve had sinned. They had disobeyed God and for that reason, they were hiding themselves

from God. They knew they had blown it and were ashamed.

But God came looking for them. He called out them, "Where are you?" Here from the very beginning we see God seeking out man to have fellowship with him. God sacrificed an animal to make a garment to cover Adam and Eve. From that beginning God has continued to seek out man to bring him into a right relationship to Himself.

And if that wasn't enough, God came in the flesh to seek and save us. "But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons." (Gal 4:4-5)

Paul writes in 1 Timothy 1:15, "That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." We read in our text that Zaccheus was looking for Jesus, but Jesus was already seeking for him. Jesus' quest is to seek out all who are in need of salvation and offer it to them.

Zaccheus climbed up a tree seeking the Savior—the Savior climbed upon a tree and was crucified seeking you and me! Speaking of His crucifixion, Jesus said, "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." (John 12:32) Through His death on the cross, Jesus is calling out to a lost humanity, seeking us out, drawing us to Himself, so that we can be saved.

But it doesn't stop there. The quest continues through each one of us. Jesus' seeking didn't stop after His death and resurrection. He told His disciples that had gather together in Jerusalem, "You will be My witness." "Go into all the world and make disciples. Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Today, who is called to tell, to witness, to teach, to seek after the lost? Each and every person who carries the name of Jesus Christ. The quest must continue through us!

To help us prepare for His coming, we must know. . .

## II. Jesus' Triumph And Ours

Our triumph comes in two ways. First, it comes when we who are seeking are sought and found. Jesus' statement to Zaccheus in verse nine, "Today salvation has come to this house . . ." That applies to every, even today. In Luke 15 we read, "In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Every time a lost person is found—every time a sinner is saved, the entire

Kingdom of God rejoices with a shout of joy.

If you have never led anyone to Christ, then you are missing out on one of the greatest experiences a person could ever experience. Because when God uses you as His witness you not only know the power of God is working through you, but you see that power in action in the heart of the one you are sharing the message of salvation with.

We share the gospel of Christ, knowing that we will not be triumphant in every case—but we realize if we don't share the gospel, we will be triumphant in none.

Secondly, Jesus' triumph and ours come every moment that we live our life for Him.

In the third century, Cyprian, the Bishop of Carthage, wrote to his friend Donatus, "It is a bad world, Donatus, an incredibly bad world. But, I have discovered in the mist of it, a quiet and good people who have learned the great secret of life. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. They are masters of their souls. They have overcome the world. These people, Donatus, are Christians . . . and I am one of them." Cyprian learned that to live for Christ is to be triumphant no matter what is going on in the world around you. (Source Unknown)

For Zaccheus, it would no longer matter to him what people thought of him, or how people treated him—because the life he now led was one of triumph in Jesus Christ.

Former NBA center and coach, Johnny Kerr said his biggest test as a coach came when he coached the expansion Chicago Bulls, and his biggest player was 6'8" Erwin Mueller. Kerr stated, "We had lost seven in a row, I decided to give a psychological pep talk before a game with the Celtics. I told Bob Boozer to go out and pretend he was the best scorer in basketball. I told Jerry Sloan to pretend he was the best defensive guard. I told Guy Rodgers to pretend he could run an offense better than any other guard, and I told Mueller to pretend he was the best rebounding, shot-blocking, scoring center in the game."

"We lost the game by 17. There I was pacing around the locker room afterwards, trying to figure out what to say, when Mueller walked up, put his arm around me and said, 'Don't worry about it coach. Just pretend we won.'"

One of the wonderful things about being a Christian is that we never have to pretend. We know that we are triumphant because of our relationship

to Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

No matter what is thrown at us—poverty, disease, or death—we know that we are victorious because Jesus has sought us out and we are living our lives for Him!

Conclusion; Jesus came to seek and save the lost and His purpose continues today. It is an endless cycle that will continue until He returns for His Church. Seeking and saving, seeking and saving. The wonderful thing about it, we get to be an active member in continuing Christ purpose in coming. Because His purpose must be ours as well.

It is not like God to set us in the world with no purpose, with no mission—He has sent us on a quest to find the lost and give them the message of Christ. He has given us the blessing of eternally triumphing in the victory He shares with us.

AMEN