

# Luke 19:1-10

2 August 2020

ICEBREAKER: Describe an embarrassing incident you experienced.

## LARGE GROUP QUESTIONS:

(Read verses 1-4) During this time, Jericho had become a prosperous city. Tax collectors were usually much wealthier than the common Jew. **Zacchaeus** was not simply a tax collector, but a **chief tax collector**, having tax collectors working under him. Zacchaeus surely became **rich** from his city's wealth.

As rich as Zacchaeus was financially, he was **poor** in other important areas of his life. **Religiously**, because he was a tax collector, he was considered as **defiled** as prostitutes. **Relationally**, he seems to have had **no friends**. He is **alone in a crowd**. Because he is a despised chief tax collector, his countrymen did not help him see Jesus. They did not move aside for him or help him in any way.

1. What **area in your life** do you consider yourself **rich**, and in what area do you consider yourself **poor**?

(Read verses 3-6) As tall as Zacchaeus was financially, he was embarrassingly short physically. He could not see Jesus approaching because he could not look over anyone in the crowd. Yet, despite his **physical limitation**, he **would not be denied in seeing Jesus**.

Imagine the **humorous sight** of this rich, short fellow running ahead of the procession, and frantically climbing up a sycamore tree—all just to see Jesus walk by.

2. What **uncomfortable** or **embarrassing thing** have you **ever done to get closer to Jesus** or **witness Him to others**?

(Read verses 7-10) Seeing Jesus welcome this hated chief tax collector, the crowd began to murmur, condemning Zacchaeus. They **labeled Zacchaeus** a '**sinner**' because tax collectors were notorious for overtaxing the common people for Rome and pocketing the difference.

Notice Zacchaeus' response. He **did not shout down** the accusers in the crowd. He **did not make excuses** that he was just trying to make a living. He **did not ask** Jesus for an **easy forgiveness** for past wrongs.

Rather, Zacchaeus declared he would **give half of his wealth to the poor**. On top of that, he would **pay back four times** the amount he had cheated anyone in the past. The full repayment under Jewish law (Exodus 22:1) was four times the amount stolen. Zacchaeus publicly declared he was **paying back in full** for any of his **past sins**.

Jesus considered Zacchaeus declaration as a **sure sign of repentance**. For Jesus stated, "**Today salvation has come to this house.**"

3. Describe a time **you truly repented** or witnessed someone else **truly repent**.

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## PRAYER GROUP TIME

*(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to witness Christ to this week.)*

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