

Dear Friend,

The story of Zacchaeus as told in the gospel of Luke 19:1-10 is a perfect illustration of the "new birth" experience that would be made possible after Jesus was glorified. He was a short man who had never seen Jesus. Somebody must have told him about Jesus because when he heard that Jesus would be coming through his hometown, he climbed a tree to "see Jesus, who he was." Zacchaeus was a "seeker" and Jesus often taught, those who seek will find. [Mat 7:7]

He did not know who Jesus was, but Jesus certainly knew who Zacchaeus was and called him by name saying, "Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house." This is such an excellent "type and shadow" of what the new birth would be like. We hear the gospel of Jesus, we seek after Jesus, and if we do, Jesus will come into our heart (our house).

Whenever anyone asks Jesus into their heart, He literally comes in to be the Lord of the house. We are His sheep and we begin to hear His voice. Just like we see in the gospels, Jesus comes in to drive out everything he finds in our heart that is not of God. It can be all sorts of things like drug addiction, alcoholism, pornography, and so forth. It is different things with different people. In the gospels we see that Jesus made a scourge and drove out the moneychangers, and for Zacchaeus, greed and covetousness was a major problem of his.

Get the picture. Jesus goes into Zacchaeus' house to fellowship with him. We are not told what was discussed in that house. That conversation was private just between Jesus and Zacchaeus. Aren't you glad nobody gets to hear the private conversations you have with the Lord in your own heart? But we can tell what was discussed by what Zacchaeus says when he repents of his former ways.

Luk 19:8 And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore *him* fourfold.

Without doubt the Lord had been discussing Zacchaeus' life of greed and corrupt business practices that had made him the "chief publican" and "very rich." Jesus is the WORD made flesh. Zacchaeus heard the WORD within his own house. Zacchaeus was not a "hearer only" but he acted on the WORD that he heard and repented of his evil ways. Only then did Jesus say,

Luk 19:9a And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house.

Let me ask you a question. If Zacchaeus had heard what Jesus said to him in the house, thought it over, and then decided he would not repent ... would Jesus have said salvation had come to his house? Absolutely not. If Zacchaeus had heard the Word and chosen willfully to not repent but rather to continue his corrupt business practices for the rest of his life, would he have been saved? Absolutely not ... and much of the church at large today does not understand the necessity of repentance when Jesus comes in the house. This is what Jesus meant when he said,

Luk 13:25-27 When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: (26) Then shall ye begin to say, We have

eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. (27) But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.

Consider an unrepentant Zacchaeus on judgment day. He had heard the word spoken by Jesus in his own house, yet he had willfully chosen not to be a doer of what he heard. When Jesus says to him, "I know you not," Zacchaeus might say, "But Lord, you taught in the streets of my town. Lord, you even came into my house and dined with me. We had fellowship as we partook of a meal together." But Jesus would conclude, "I do not know you. Depart from me, you worker of iniquity."

THERE IS NO SALVATION WITHOUT REPENTANCE!

Luk 6:46-49 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? (47) Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: (48) He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. (49) But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

The only way to make sure your house will stand is by "doing" what Jesus says. If Jesus is in your house (your heart), He (the living WORD) is speaking to you regarding the path of righteousness for you individually. It is imperative that none of us be hearers only. We must be doers of the WORD we hear and that always involves repentance. Let us all hear and obey TODAY!

Your friend and co-laborer,

GARY