

Jesus In The House

By Gary Carpenter

Luke 19:1-10 And *Jesus* entered and passed through Jericho. (2) And, behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. (3) And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. (4) And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycomore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. (5) And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. (6) And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. (7) And when they saw *it*, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. (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 any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore *him* fourfold. (9) And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham. (10) For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

There is so much to teach here but I want to write this first part very simply because it is such a perfect, visual "picture" of how salvation comes. No doubt Zacchaeus is a sinner. He was "the" chief publican. A Jew who collected taxes from Jews for the occupying Roman government. He was rich, not surprising because the common practice was for the publicans to tax more from the people than they really owed, and would pocket the difference. This is why John the Baptist told the publicans when they came to be baptized in water:

Luke 3:12-13 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? (13) And he said unto them, **Exact no more than that which is appointed you.**

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus. It began with a hunger within him to see "who He was." Jesus asked the disciples, "Whom do you say that I am?" That is most important question in any person's lifetime ... "Who do you say Jesus is?" Zacchaeus did not know who Jesus was, but Jesus most certainly knew who Zacchaeus was. Hunger, manifested as curiosity, motivated Zacchaeus to try and see Jesus. Jesus rewards such hunger with Himself.

Jesus invites Himself to come into Zacchaeus' house. He stands at the door of every person's heart and knocks, asking to come in.

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

But notice at the same time, He knew Zacchaeus by name (just as He knows you by name) and says to him, "Make haste, and come down."

Hurry! Nobody is guaranteed another day. Nobody knows what day is their last day of life on planet earth.

"Come down" ... of course He might come down from being up in the tree ...but symbolically every man must "come down" from pride in order to humbly receive the Master into his house.

The sinner, Zacchaeus, received Jesus "joyfully." The people were disgusted that Jesus would not only enter into a sinner's house, but that He would share the evening meal ("sup" from Revelations 3:20) with a notorious sinner.

In ancient times among the Jews, this was the most important meal of the day. People who "supped" together denotes the image of friends sharing thoughts and information. It is the picture of intimacy and friendship. It was not a quick snack. It was a leisurely meal where friends had social interaction with each other. Picture Zacchaeus having a leisurely meal with Jesus, hearing Him speak, and answering the questions of Zacchaeus.

Jesus does not remain silent when He comes to sup in your house. Notice who changes as the fellowship continues. Zacchaeus changed, not Jesus. Jesus is the same yesterday, and today, and forever. (Heb 13:8)

We are not told the actual conversations had during the time of this supper, but we can tell from the results the sort of things that were discussed. The eyes of Zacchaeus' understanding were opened to his own selfish lifestyle, and to his own sinfulness.

NOTE: Zacchaeus was born a Jew. He had heard the law of Moses read in synagogue his whole life. He knew what the law commanded concerning helping the poor and living an honest life. The law never made it to his heart. He was a lover of money, selfish, and a thief. Time spent with Jesus produced what the law of Moses never could do ... it changed his heart ... and that brought true repentance and a change of lifestyle.

This is a visual picture of the new covenant. It is based on your relationship with Jesus Christ, YOUR LORD! It is no more about you trying in your own effort to keep the law of Moses. It is about your fellowship with Christ your Savior, and your obedience to Him as your LORD! But there is no such thing as Him being your LORD unless you do what He says!

Luke 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 picture of new covenant salvation is seen here as Zacchaeus is in fellowship with Jesus, not only what the WORD of GOD is saying, but acting on the Word that he hears. Notice the repentance based on that fellowship.

"Half my goods I give to the poor." Zacchaeus was RICH! This was no small amount he would voluntarily be giving to the poor. I can't help but think of the rich man who would not share his crumbs with Lazarus. His eyes were never opened to his own selfishness until after the grave ... and then it was too late. He is still tormented in flames all these centuries since that time, and will be forever.

How much better to have the eyes of our understanding opened by spending time with Jesus so we can repent now and avoid the pain and suffering of Hell fire. Again I say, time spent with Jesus was able to do what the law of Moses could never do.

Zacchaeus and Jesus are "abiding" in the same house. Jesus is "abiding" with him. The words of Jesus are "abiding" in Zacchaeus ... and Zacchaeus is acting on them. He is being a DOER of the Word he is HEARING.

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

"If I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore *him* fourfold." This is the proper response for a thief who comes forth and confesses his sin of his own accord, not after being found guilty after a trial. [Exodus 22:1] If the thief does not come forward and confess of his own accord, but is found to be guilty by trial, then he must restore what he stole sevenfold. [Proverbs 6:30-31]

This is a great visual picture of what I have described as there being "a new sheriff in town" after you are born again. This was precisely what it was like in the early days after I was born again. There was this constant fellowship, internal worship, and thankfulness, yet at the same time a "knowing" that alcohol, pornography, swearing and dirty jokes, and many such things had to go.

Nobody had to teach me these things. They were written in my heart and my mind when I was born again. There was a conscience within me that constantly smote me as my flesh tried to continue doing them. I did not have that conscience within me before asking Jesus into my heart. I was a "happy sinner." But now I was no longer a "happy sinner," but was rather a "miserable saint" until I obeyed my conscience. That process is simply obeying the Lord Jesus who is now abiding "in your house."

That is the very process by which we "depart from iniquity." Those that get genuinely saved do depart from iniquity, although it may take some time. Thank God, He gives us "space to repent." But repentance must eventually come because of these passages:

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Matthew 7:21-23 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. (22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in

thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? (23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

The Lord said to me years ago, *"You will either depart from iniquity now, or you will depart from Me then."* What if Zacchaeus had said "No" to the Lord who was in his house? He obviously heard what the Lord said. He obviously understood what he was supposed to do. But what if he said no?

Jesus did not say "salvation has come to this house" until AFTER Zacchaeus had repented and ACTED on the words he received from Jesus. That is what Abraham did. Abraham believed God and acted on what God said. That is saving faith. If we invite Jesus into our heart, He will come. He will not remain silent. The new nature will immediately begin communicating with you concerning righteousness. If you hear and obey, salvation has come to your house. If you hear and do not obey, salvation has not come to your house.

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What if Zacchaeus had said "no" to the Lord? It is obvious that the time Zacchaeus spent with Christ resulted in him being convicted of his sin. Fellowship with Christ "in his house" had done what the law had never done, even though he had heard the law of Moses read in the synagogue weekly his entire life.

Suddenly he hears from the Lord that he needs to repent for his selfishness, greed, and thieving. He knows that not only must he stop his previous behavior, but also needs to make restitution. He has "heard" the sayings of Christ. Thankfully, Zacchaeus said "yes," and THEN Jesus said, salvation has come to this house.

But what if he had said no? What if he "heard," but did not "do?" Would Jesus have said salvation had come to Zacchaeus' house? No ... if Zacchaeus never did "do" what Jesus "said" ... that means he would have continued in his iniquity ... and on that day Jesus would say to him ... depart from Me, you worker of iniquity.

In that case, Jesus promises that the house will fall!

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