



The Nourishing Vocation Project Engaging the Living Word

[Luke 19:1-10](#)

What is this particular text?

- Story
 - Redemption
 - Seeing someone for who they truly are
- Jesus's way of loving across stereotypes and reputation
- Persistence
- Forgiveness

How does the text function within the scriptural story?

- The adventures of Jesus
- Jesus' interaction with people who society ignores
- The countercultural actions of Jesus

How can this text function in the church today?

- Reaching out to outcasts
- Invitation to look beyond stereotypes
- Who is God calling us to welcome?
- How can we love boldly like Jesus?

What does the text do to you? How do you react to the text? What feelings does this text engender in you?

- Makes me feel the pain of being rejected by others
- Makes me wonder about the times in which I have judged others
- Continually surprised by the radical love and acceptance that Jesus shows to everyone
- Wonder about what the others were thinking
- Frustration that others judged Jesus and Zacchaeus

What do you have to say to the text?

- Zacchaeus was persistent.
- Jesus was persistent too.
- It's not easy to go against loud voices around you, but Jesus does it anyway.
- Both Jesus and Zacchaeus were not very popular at times.
- Does Zacchaeus actually follow through on his promise? Does his reputation change?

What do you see through this text from the story itself?

- The way of Jesus is countercultural.
- It is possible to change our ways, even when the world thinks we can't.

What do you see from within your church/community/world? (2022)

- Churches can be quick to "play God" and condemn people for their actions.
 - Deciding who is worthy of God's love...when the answer is everyone

- Economic injustices
- Crises of our current time
 - Condemning people for their identity
 - Gender identity, sexual orientation, race, appearance, ect
 - Judging people who have different beliefs than us
 - In political and religious settings
 - Isolating those who have done bad things

What do you see within yourself?

- Times when I have been judged
- Times when I have judged someone else
- Times when I have felt seen

What is the context – textual and historical?

- Follows parables
 - Parable of the tax collector in the chapter before this text
- Follows story of Jesus
- Follows instances of Jesus healing others
- Builds upon how others perceived Jesus
- Precedes the arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem
- Leads to additional parables

What questions does this text raise for you?

- What caused Zacchaeus to try to see who Jesus was? Why then?
- What is Zacchaeus' back story?
- How do we respond to people who are different from us?

What words/themes seem of particular import?

- He was trying to see who Jesus was
- Welcome
- Hurry and come down
- Salvation has come to this house
- Son of Abraham

What is the Gospel / transforming Good News within this text?

- We are all seen and known by God, even when it feels like we are not by others.
- Jesus continues to practice radical love and welcome.
- It is never too late to do the right thing.
- Jesus promises salvation – we do not need to earn it.
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What is the as-over-againstness of this text?

- Zacchaeus says he will give away half of his possessions, but we don't know if he actually does.
- It is hard to accept and welcome people we don't like.
 - Has your congregation been welcoming to all people? How? If not, reflect on some of the instances where you failed.

Who does this text say that Jesus is, or if not Jesus, then who does this text say that God is? What does this text say about God?

- Jesus loves unconditionally.
- Jesus loves those who society condemns.
- Jesus calls us to love one another as he loves us.

What have others said about this text?

- [“This story confronts](#) us with our embodied knowledge. In US Society, as well as the Puerto Rican society, it is acceptable for a kid to climb a tree, but not for a grown man, and definitely not for an officer of the state.” Liz Valle-Ruiz, Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Worship, McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois
- [“Doesn't it strike you as a tad coincidental](#) that, just when Zacchaeus was ripe for conversion, Jesus happens to be passing through? Jesus just happens to be in the neighborhood at the right moment for Zacchaeus to catch sight of his forgiving face? I don't think it's a coincidence at all. I think it is one more sign of God's excellent timing. Of course, when God consistently seeks us out in every time and every place, there are bound to be times when God or Jesus "shows up" just at the right time.” The Power of Persistence, Part 3: Reflections on Luke 19:1-10 by Alyce Mckenzie
- [“The story of Zacchaeus resonates](#) with that story not only through the references to Zacchaeus' wealth and his intention toward the poor, but also because of the particular way in which Jesus responds.” Meda Stamper, Leicestershire, England

What will I teach or proclaim?

- Jesus sees Zacchaeus and Jesus sees us.
- Zacchaeus was persistent and Jesus met him where he was at. There is no place we can go where Jesus will not abide with us.
- We will mess up. We will cause harm to others. Even when we do, we are still claimed and loved by God.
- God consistently seeks us out in every time and every place. There will be times when God or Jesus "shows up" just at the right time.
- Waiting for just the right time is hard, but God is present in the discernment, guiding us to serve and love as Jesus did.
- Jesus showed up before Zacchaeus even made the offer. We do not need to offer or do anything for Jesus to show up for us. He's already there with us every step of the way.