

March 31, 2019
Luke 19:1-10 – Application Questions

1. Zacchaeus was a “chief tax collector.” Many Israelites in Jesus’ day despised tax collectors because they had sided with the Romans who had conquered the Israelites. Many viewed tax collectors as traitors to their own people. They were considered “the worst of the worst.” **Who or what groups (occupations, backgrounds, beliefs, crimes committed, nationality, etc.) does our society sometimes look down upon or distrust?**
2. Zacchaeus, who was despised and was socially unacceptable to the majority, wanted to get close to Jesus. **How do churches make it easy or difficult for “outsiders” or people whose lifestyle contradicts with our own to get near Jesus?**
3. Does it make you nervous to think about having a congregation that attracts people who may have lifestyles, habits or beliefs that are “not yet” Jesus-like?
4. Parents: **How do you protect your children from destructive influences while reaching out to the very people who need Christ to deliver them from those destructive influences?**
5. Jesus decided to stay at Zacchaeus’ house even though the crowds disapproved. **Of all the people to choose, why do you think Jesus chose to stay at his house?**
6. Luke doesn’t mention that Zacchaeus asked Jesus for forgiveness. Instead Luke mentions that Zacchaeus gave half his possessions to the poor and paid back in quadruple the amount of money he cheated every person. Jesus then states that, “Salvation has come to this house.” **Can a person become a Christ-follower without explicitly ASKING for forgiveness?**
7. Once Zacchaeus became a Christ-follower, he wanted to “make right” all the “wrongs” he had inflicted on others. **If you are a Christian, what did you feel compelled to “make right” once you started following Christ?**
8. **What’s the difference between “doing good in order to earn salvation” VERSUS “doing good as a result of salvation?”**
9. Jesus was a recognized and respected Jewish leader in the community. He PUBLICLY restores Zacchaeus back into the Jewish community by stating, “this man, too, is a son of Abraham.” Zacchaeus would now be able to worship with them in the synagogue and be accepted by the religious community. We often think of salvation as only involving forgiving our sins. **But what part of salvation has to do with Jesus connecting us to a larger worshiping community? Why do we need others to help us serve Jesus more faithfully?**
10. Jesus stated that he came to seek and save the lost. **How does being “lost” manifest itself in the various areas of our life such as our relationships, our finances, our health, our attitudes, etc.?**
11. **What haven’t we talked about today from this story that you’d like to discuss?**

TAKE HOME:

- Are there things you have put off “making right” now that you follow Christ? Why?
- Does anything about this story upset you or bother you? Why?
- If applicable, ask your partner or child how you can pray for them this week that will help them implement their action step.