

# THE SALVATION OF THE SPIRITUALLY BLIND

[BIBLE TEXT](#) : [Luke 19:1-10](#)

LESSON 186 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:44).

## [BIBLE TEXT in King James Version](#)

### Luke 19:1-10

<sup>1</sup> And *Jesus* entered and passed through Jericho.  
<sup>2</sup> And, behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.  
<sup>3</sup> And he sought to see *Jesus* who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.  
<sup>4</sup> And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that *way*.  
<sup>5</sup> 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.  
<sup>6</sup> And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.  
<sup>7</sup> And when they saw *it*, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.  
<sup>8</sup> 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.  
<sup>9</sup> And *Jesus* said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.  
<sup>10</sup> For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

## [BIBLE REFERENCES:](#)

### I Time of Visitation

- The chief of the publicans, Zacchaeus, desired to see *Jesus*, Luke 19: 1-4;  
**Luke 5:15**  
<sup>15</sup> But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities.  
**Matthew 4:24**  
<sup>24</sup> And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.  
**Matthew 9:31**  
<sup>31</sup> But they, when they were departed, spread abroad his fame in all that country.  
**Isaiah 52:13**  
<sup>13</sup> Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.  
**Isaiah 52:15**  
<sup>15</sup> So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for *that* which had not been told them shall they see; and *that* which they had not heard shall they consider.  
**John 6:2**  
<sup>2</sup> And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.
- Zacchaeus' interest was in response to the drawing power of God, Luke 19:5;  
**Song of Songs 1:4**  
<sup>4</sup> Draw me, we will run after thee: the king hath brought me into his chambers: we will be glad and rejoice in thee, we will remember thy love more than wine: the upright love thee.  
**Jeremiah 31:3**  
<sup>3</sup> The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, *saying*, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.  
**Hosea 11:4**  
<sup>4</sup> I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love: and I was to them as they that take off the yoke on their jaws, and I laid meat unto them.  
**John 6:44**  
<sup>44</sup> No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.
- Zacchaeus gave eager answer to *Jesus*' invitation, and received Him joyfully, Luke 19:5, 6;  
**Isaiah 9:2**  
<sup>2</sup> The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.  
**John 1:4**  
<sup>4</sup> In him was life; and the life was the light of men.  
**John 1:9**  
<sup>9</sup> *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.
- Many criticized *Jesus* for being the guest of a sinner, not understanding the miracle of salvation or the Deity of Christ, Luke 19:7;

**Luke 19:44**

<sup>44</sup> And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

**John 1:5**

<sup>5</sup> And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

**John 1:26**

<sup>26</sup> John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;

**John 3:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

**John 3:19**

<sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

**Ephesians 4:18**

<sup>18</sup> Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

**Matthew 13:15**

<sup>15</sup> For this people's heart is waxed gross, and *their* ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and should understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

**II Fruits of Repentance**

- 1 Zacchaeus' meeting with Christ is an example of instantaneous conversion and its immediate effect, Luke 19:6;

**Acts 2:41**

<sup>41</sup> Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

**Acts 16:34**

<sup>34</sup> And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.

- 2 The immediate confession of past misdeeds, and the promise of restitution, were proofs of Zacchaeus' true and godly repentance unto salvation, Luke 19:8;

**Luke 3:8**

<sup>8</sup> Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to *our* father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

**Luke 18:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

<sup>23</sup> And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.

**Psalms 41:1**

<sup>1</sup> Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.

**Leviticus 6:1-6**

<sup>1</sup> And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

<sup>2</sup> If a soul sin, and commit a trespass against the LORD, and lie unto his neighbour in that which was delivered him to keep, or in fellowship, or in a thing taken away by violence, or hath deceived his neighbour;

<sup>3</sup> Or have found that which was lost, and lieth concerning it, and sweareth falsely; in any of all these that a man doeth, sinning therein:

<sup>4</sup> Then it shall be, because he hath sinned, and is guilty, that he shall restore that which he took violently away, or the thing which he hath deceitfully gotten, or that which was delivered him to keep, or the lost thing which he found,

<sup>5</sup> Or all that about which he hath sworn falsely; he shall even restore it in the principal, and shall add the fifth part more thereto, *and* give it unto him to whom it appertaineth, in the day of his trespass offering.

<sup>6</sup> And he shall bring his trespass offering unto the LORD, a ram without blemish out of the flock, with thy estimation, for a trespass offering, unto the priest:

**Proverbs 6:30-31**

<sup>30</sup> Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;

<sup>31</sup> But *if* he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.

**Matthew 5:23-24**

<sup>23</sup> Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

<sup>24</sup> Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

**2 Corinthians 7:10**

<sup>10</sup> For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

3 Jesus affirmed the truth of Zacchaeus' conversion, Luke 19:9, 10;

**Luke 2:30-32**

<sup>30</sup> For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

<sup>31</sup> Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

<sup>32</sup> A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

4 Zacchaeus proved himself a true son of Abraham by recognizing Jesus as the Christ, Luke 19:8-10;

**Luke 13:16**

<sup>16</sup> And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?

**Galatians 3:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

<sup>8</sup> And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

<sup>9</sup> So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

**Galatians 3:29**

<sup>29</sup> And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

**John 8:33**

<sup>33</sup> They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

**John 8:37-44**

<sup>37</sup> I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

<sup>38</sup> I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

<sup>39</sup> They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

<sup>40</sup> But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

<sup>41</sup> Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, *even*

God.

<sup>42</sup> Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

<sup>43</sup> Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* because ye cannot hear my word.

<sup>44</sup> Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

#### **John 8:52-58**

<sup>52</sup> Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.

<sup>53</sup> Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?

<sup>54</sup> Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God:

<sup>55</sup> Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying.

<sup>56</sup> Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw *it*, and was glad.

<sup>57</sup> Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

<sup>58</sup> Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

#### **NOTES:**

##### **A Publican's Desire**

Zacchaeus, a rich publican, desired to see Jesus. This was a worthy ambition for anyone, and it was particularly so for Zacchaeus, who was chief of the publicans. This office of publican (which was a tax-collection agency for the Roman government) was one which was hated by all Jews because of the great amount of graft and extortion in it. The opportunity for such graft was seldom lost by those holding the publican's office. While the Scripture does not say that Zacchaeus was dishonest in his official duties, his own testimony leaves us with the impression that he had wronged people in the past.

It was unusual for a man of Zacchaeus' occupation and character to show much interest in such a one as Jesus Christ, and his interest did not stem from mere idle curiosity. What stirred Zacchaeus' heart was the working of God's plan of redemption through the person of Jesus Christ. The great fame of Christ and the news of the astounding miracles that He performed had stirred all men's hearts throughout the land and the surrounding countries.

Jesus' interpretations of the writings of the old prophets and the Law of Moses were so different from the usual concept of the Pharisaical laws and traditions that great dissension and arguments arose. Men everywhere talked of Jesus, and of the things He said and did.

As we consider Jesus Christ through the Word of God we see, as Zacchaeus finally did, that Christ is more than a mortal man. He is the Son of God, and He was the One who would, and did, provide an atonement for men's sins. He had come to seek and save that which was lost, Zacchaeus being one who was lost, and who was found by Christ.

##### **Light of God**

On one occasion Isaiah spoke with prophetic utterance of

Christ's being a great light: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined" (Isaiah 9:2). John the Baptist spoke of Jesus as a light to men: "That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world" (John 1:9). It was the light, the light of true understanding and knowledge of Christ, that had begun to shine into Zacchaeus' heart. (**2 Peter 1:3** <sup>3</sup> According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:)

We do not know just what immediate motives caused Zacchaeus to desire to see Jesus, but we do know that he must have been unhappy. Disliked by all, Zacchaeus must have felt the emptiness of his riches and power and authority in his public office. He came to the right One when he desired help. The Scripture *says* of Jesus: "For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell" (Colossians 1:19), no doubt meaning by that, that included in Christ with other divine attributes is the fullness of life, and it is to be had nowhere else.

Zacchaeus may have had only this one opportunity to seek Jesus. It is to his everlasting credit and eternal joy that he availed himself of it. Jesus never passed through Jericho again. In Christ's last days on earth, perhaps Zacchaeus seemed the least likely of anyone around to receive anything from Jesus Christ; but he was one of the very few who did. Zacchaeus was in a state of mind comparable to the blind beggar of Jericho and the thief on the cross, who, when they cried aloud to Jesus for mercy, received the answer to their petitions. One meeting with Jesus was all Zacchaeus seemed to need to recognize that He was the Life, and the Light of men (**John 1:4** <sup>4</sup> In him was life; and the life was the light of men.).

As Zacchaeus was small of stature, he had climbed into a tree better to see Jesus as He passed by. To Zacchaeus' happy surprise, Jesus not only saw him in the tree but bade him make haste and come down, for He desired to abide with him that day. We do not know just all that transpired between Jesus and Zacchaeus, in those next few minutes, but we do know that shortly Zacchaeus had a marvelous change of mind, heart, and life. - Zacchaeus' first exclamations as he touched the ground are good evidence of a truly repentant heart: "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." These statements shall stand forever in repudiation of all those unbelievers who deny the Bible teaching of restitution as being associated with salvation and the Christian way of life.

### Fruits of Repentance

John the Baptist warned the Pharisees when they came to him that they were to bring forth fruits meet for repentance (Matthew 3:8). Isaiah gave backslidden Israel a definition of repentance: "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?" (Isaiah 58:6,7). Such actions as these are proof to God and man that we are sincere in our repentance.

Zacchaeus manifested true repentance by promising to do that which he saw was necessary to do immediately: helping the poor, and making restitutions for his past wrongs.

To those who deny the truth of restitution, teaching that it is

contrary to what God requires of men, we say, Consider the statement made by Zacchaeus: "If I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold?" The whole Law of God required restitution, and God has not changed His requirements today. Often wrongdoing has to be confessed, also where a wrong can be rectified by the restitution of money, that must be done. "God requireth that which is past" (Ecclesiastes 3:15).

Jesus confirmed Zacchaeus' conversion by telling him, "This day is salvation come to this house." Anything less than a conversion that will immediately begin to bring forth fruit unto God, and a testimony to which God will lend witness, is no conversion at all.

No man of Zacchaeus' occupation and character, or one of greater or lesser circumstances, is making public promise of restitution unless God is concerned in the matter. Zacchaeus seemed to have clearly understood that restitution was necessary. Sorrow for his sins had probably kept him awake many nights while God talked to him.

When Jesus held out the invitation to Zacchaeus he must have determined to accept it no matter what the cost would be to himself. Zacchaeus confessed his sins to Jesus and promised to do that which was required of him, and the joys of salvation began to flood his soul.

Jesus spoke to the scribes and Pharisees on one occasion, saying: "Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you" (Matthew 21:31). These did enter into the Kingdom of God before many. It was not because God was more lenient or merciful to them for their greater sins; but it was because they seemed to believe the truths of God more readily, and to be more willing than those who were self-righteous, to confess their need of Christ. Of such was Zacchaeus. He could see his need of Christ and His salvation, and he eagerly embraced it when he had the opportunity.

The Prophet Ezekiel spoke words of encouragement to the wicked: "When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; if he turn from his sin, and do that which is lawful and right; if the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die" (Ezekiel 33:14, 15). Zacchaeus did this. So have many others since then, and so may those who wish to be saved from their sins do so today. Thus will they be received of God.

### **Witness of God**

If we are truly born again, have had our lives transformed by the miraculous power of God, God will bear witness to the truth of our testimonies. This was the case with Zacchaeus, and has been the case with every one truly converted.

Jesus said of Zacchaeus: "This day is salvation come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham." The Pharisees, in their discussions with Jesus, made much of their religion, and they contended that they were true children of Abraham. Jesus told them: "If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham" (John 8:39, 40).

Zacchaeus received salvation, and became a true child of Abraham because he had faith in Christ that He was the Savior of men's souls. The Pharisees, with all their self-righteousness, could not qualify as children of God, because they would not receive the person of Christ as the true Messiah.

Faith in the message of God and the witness of God to His works has always been the way of salvation. The doors of

salvation have always swung open to those who had faith in God and in God's Son, Jesus Christ, as the Savior of men's souls. There is no other way.

**QUESTIONS**

- 1 Who was Zacchaeus, and what was his occupation?
- 2 Why did the people hate the publicans?
- 3 Why did Zacchaeus desire to see Jesus?
- 4 What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus when He saw him in the tree?
- 5 What proof do we have that Zacchaeus was truly converted?
- 6 What is meant by fruits of repentance?
- 7 Who are the children of Abraham?