

## Weekly Word – Week of October 30,2022

The Scripture for this week is taken from the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 19, verses 1-10, "He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

There is a lot we can take out of this reading, from what was Jesus doing in that are at the time, to the vastness of the crowds, to paying restitution to those who you have wronged. All valid points. What I want to speak about is the relationship between Jesus and Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a rich tax collector, a Jew who chose to work for the Roman government collecting taxes, seemingly, more than was required from the government, as he was a rich man (v.2). So, he was not well liked and was considered by some a traitor. He was judged by those in the community, whether fairly or unfairly, it was a fact of being a tax collector for the Romans. Jesus was coming into town and a lot of people wanted to see Him, maybe even get close enough to touch Him, like the woman healed of the issue of blood in the chapter of Luke 8. For whatever reason people were flocking to see Jesus. Zacchaeus was a man of short stature and could not see over the crowd, even to get a glimpse of Jesus, but something inside him compelled him to figure out how to see Jesus. So, throwing off all dignity he ran ahead to a sycamore tree (it was very unacceptable for a grown Jewish man to run) and climbed up to get a better view. The sycamore tree is a very big tree with a lot of foliage and a very easy spot to stay out of the limelight. But as Jesus and His entourage came near to where Zacchaeus was up in the tree, Jesus called him by name and told him to come down, "...for I must stay at your house today." Jesus knew Zacchaeus' name as well as his heart and knew that he was seeking Jesus. He was open to what Jesus had for him in his life.

Jesus is still here today, waiting for each one of us to come to Him. To find Him. He knows our name, who we are, and most importantly He still loves us and wants to, "...stay at your house today." That is to take us residence in our heart, to our Saviour, Lord, Brother, and Friend. All we have to do is come out of our hiding place as He calls us.