

Part 5

An Ambassador who was Greedy

Luke 19:1-10

1 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'"

8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

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Message notes:

There is something going on in Zaccheus's heart that shows he is _____.

Jesus has a _____ with Zaccheus, He went looking for him.

Ask: How can I _____ for you?

Jesus wasn't trying to embarrass him, He was setting him _____.

Faith is a very personal thing, but it's never _____.

It doesn't have to be a _____ to remind people that Jesus loves them.

Generosity is tied to _____, and gratitude is a force that the Kingdom of God moves in.

_____ people are people who are grateful that they get to do this.

Steps to Becoming an Ambassador:

Talk as a group about ways to be generous together. Some suggestions could be:

As a group, order dinner for delivery next week and give them a large tip.

Find a single parent connected to a member of your group and provide Christmas gifts for their family.

Have a "work day" at the home of a neighbor who is unable to care for their home.

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Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Jamie emphasized that all sinners, regardless of their background, need redemption. How does understanding that everyone needs redemption change the way we view and interact with others?
2. Zacchaeus' willingness to climb a tree to see Jesus shows his desperation and humility. What does Zacchaeus' act of climbing the tree teach us about the lengths we should go to seek Jesus, and how can we apply this in our own lives?
3. Pastor Jamie highlighted that Jesus often chose the least likely individuals to become His ambassadors. He spoke about how that can make people feel out of place when attending Church. Have you ever felt that way? What are some ways that our Church works to create a welcoming environment?
4. The message discusses the importance of being open to divine appointments and God's leading. Can you share a personal experience where you felt God led you to a divine appointment? How did it impact you and the other person?
5. Zacchaeus' transformation is evident when he decides to give half of his possessions to the poor, becoming a generous person. In what ways can we practice generosity in our daily lives, and how does it reflect our gratitude for God's grace?

Ministry Time:

Pastor Jamie highlighted the importance of generosity as a sign of a transformed heart. Is anyone struggling with the thought of becoming more generous?

The message highlighted the importance of being willing to ask "How can I pray for you?". Does anyone feel overwhelmed with fear or anxiety about asking to pray for others?