

Standing with Our 4 AM Father
Luke 19:1-10

Have you ever lost anyone or anything very precious to you and you were willing to do almost anything to get them back? Remembering that will help you better understand Luke 19:1-10.

Usually, the lesson we draw from the story of Zacchaeus is that he was a bad guy who became a good guy and righted all the wrongs he had committed after he accepted Jesus as his Savior. Something like that happened, but Luke is making a different point. Notice that Jesus doesn't say, "Today salvation has come to this house, so this man has now become a son of Abraham." He says that Zacchaeus already was a son of Abraham who had become lost, and that's why salvation came to his house.

Two words help us get Luke's point. First, Jesus said, "I must..." The word "must" in the Bible means something is necessary because God wills it. Jesus didn't just need a place to rest up and have lunch. He HAD to go to his house because it was an obligation placed upon Him by the Father. The second word is "salvation." The name *Jesus* literally means "Yahweh is salvation" or simply "Salvation." Luke wants us to see that Salvation came to the house because the Savior arrived to do the work of seeking and saving. He did so because Zacchaeus was a son of Abraham, a lost child of God who needed to be found.

It is easy for us to look at the disruptive, difficult, and even evil things that people do, and consider those people to be inconvenient, annoying, even threats to our well-being who must be punished or eliminated. Is that how do you see the broken world around you? Do you view them like the people in the story who began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." Or do you consider every person like a lost child that needs to come home?

Zacchaeus' story is here to encourage us to stand with our Heavenly Father at the window of heaven, see His love for the world, and sense the agony He feels for His creation, His children who are lost and so desperately need to come home.