

ENCOUNTERS WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson #14

“GOING OUT ON A LIMB FOR JESUS”

Luke 19:1-10

It is always interesting to observe what people will do in order to obtain what they really need or want. While the philosophy of “get rich or die trying” is not biblical and usually leads to premature death, there are some things worth every effort to obtain. What are you willing to do in order to have a relationship with the only Person who can save you from eternal death?

I. WEALTHY PEOPLE CAN BUY ANYTHING THEY WANT, BUT OFTEN FIND OUT THAT MONEY ALONE CANNOT BUY WHAT THEY REALLY WANT. (Luke 19:1-2)

A. Zacchaeus was wealthy, but not rich in relationships. He was despised because of how he had become wealthy. If you take advantage of others to get what you want, the Lord will make you pay!

II. IF YOU ARE REALLY INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT JESUS, HE WILL MAKE SURE YOU GET TO SPEND TIME WITH HIM. (Luke 19:3-6)

A. Our chosen lifestyles often bring obstacles to getting close to the Lord Jesus. Zach was not going to get help from anyone else, so he went out on a limb to see Jesus. Are you willing to humble yourself to meet Him??

B. You may be able to hide from others, but you can never hide from the Lord. He knows who you are, where you are, what your problem is, and He knows you by name! (Zacheaus was not living up to the meaning of his name! That needed to change!)

C. Jesus did not just invite Himself to Zach’s house, He said it was mandatory that He come and spend time with him. How would you respond if Jesus said He had to come and hang out with you? Would you welcome Him in (on short notice!)??

III. WHEN A PERSON HAS A GENUINE LIFE CHANGING ENCOUNTER WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, THEIR BEHAVIOR AND THEIR WORDS WILL DEMONSTRATE IT. DO NOT SETTLE FOR FAKE CONVERSIONS! (Luke 19:7-10)

A. Take note of how indignant the crowd became because of Jesus spending time with someone they despised. It’s good to know He can redeem anybody, regardless of what kind of sinner they are. Does that give you hope??? (v.7)

B. If you really have Christ invade your life, you will have a desire to right the wrongs you have done, be a blessing to others, and share whatever the Lord has given to you. (v.8)

1. Exodus 22:1; 2nd Samuel 12:6;

C. Whenever someone gets saved, it is because Jesus was first seeking them, and their response was because of His drawing them to a relationship with Him. Your blood family can provide earthly privileges, but you need to be a part of God's spiritual family.

D. Jesus came to seek and to save those who are lost. You may know where you are, and still be "lost." It is dangerous when you do not realize that, because you keep going in the wrong direction.

THE LORD WANTS TO RESCUE YOU FROM WHATEVER SITUATION YOU HAVE FALLEN INTO. HE WENT ONTO A TREE FOR YOU. WILL YOU GO OUT ON A LIMB FOR HIM?

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