



2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Psalm 32:1-7;

Luke 19:1-10

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Luke is the only gospel in which we find the story of Zacchaeus. Luke often shares stories of people who are marginalized, oppressed, or looked down upon and shows how Jesus's love changes them. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector and probably shunned by his own people because of his profession.

In those days, taxes imposed by Rome took a large portion of people's money, leaving many poor. And as was the practice of tax collectors, Zacchaeus was likely skimming a little extra for himself too, aggravating people even more. Zacchaeus became wealthy through his position in the Roman system and his own cheating, even as most of his people struggled in poverty.

However, a small act of compassion and inclusion by Jesus turns into not only Zacchaeus's complete repentance for whom he's defrauded, it opens his eyes to the compassion his own people need. In addition to paying back four times what he had taken from those he wronged, he also gave half of his possessions to the poor. He has more than he needs and is called to share what he has because Christ has shared love and kindness to him, even while he was a sinner. It's a beautiful story of how God's love can transform a person.

It's also a good example of one who is at the same time saint and sinner:¹ we are still prone to sin, but we are all made saints by God's grace.

Who is a sinner? Simply put, someone who has transgressed against God; someone who has ignored God's Word and will.² By grace, God relentlessly reaches out to the sinner with the gift of redemption. God does not overlook sin but invites the sinner to repentance and a closer relationship with God. Contact with the Holy exposes what is corrupt and degenerate. The Word of God gives spiritual nourishment and offers a mirror through which we can see our true selves and helps us to grow in faith and maturity. One is either attracted to holiness or walks away.³

The Seed of God, or the Word of God, is sown into hearts with hope and generosity.⁴ The nurtured and cradled Seed will produce abundantly not just for the present moment but for generations,⁵ enriching and blessing the Communion of Saints across time and space.⁶ What's sown in us is the same Seed sown in our ancestors. It produced fruit: we are here because they obeyed and ran the race. In turn, they sowed that Seed in us. We are the spiritual Body of Christ across generations, a Body shaped, inspired and animated by the Word.

May the Spirit of Grace find us ready and fertile, thrilled to be called into communion with God and one another. Amen.

¹ [Simul Iustus et Peccator](#)

² [Sin Is Not an Archery Term That Means "To Miss the Mark" – Equip the Saints](#)

³ Matthew 19:16-22

⁴ Luke 8; 2 Corinthians 9

⁵ 1 John 3:9; Heb 11; Gal 6; Hosea 10:12

⁶ <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/fullness-of-time/>