

Day 3

SEE LIKE JESUS

The world had been waiting for centuries for the Messiah to come, and he was finally here! The time had come for him to do what the Father sent him to do . . . *“save the world.”*

But not quite yet . . .

*On his way to save the WORLD,
Jesus stopped to save the ONE.*

Jesus and the disciples were on their way to celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem, yet his closest followers still didn't know that they were walking with *“The Lamb of God.”* Little did they know that Jesus would be crucified in less than a week. The promise of God was standing right beside them and they still didn't see it.

The caravan of disciples had turned into a full-on crowd, and the momentum of the processional was rising with every step. Everybody wanted something from Jesus, and they'd do anything to get to the front of the line. But the streets were packed, and the odds were slim. Especially, if you're a short guy! But Jesus was looking for sinners.

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus and Zacchaeus.

¹ Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. ² There was a man named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. ³ He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said, "Quick, come down! I am going to your house today."

⁶ Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great expectation and joy. ⁷ But the people were displeased, "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled. ⁸ Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!" ⁹ Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this house today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man (Jesus) came to SEEK and SAVE those who are lost."

Jesus sees the ONE.

The ONE who feels alone.

The ONE who doesn't measure up.

The ONE who can't seem to get it together.

The ONE who thinks they're better than everyone else.

*Sometimes in our quest for MORE,
we overlook the ONE.*

We focus on the masses, the crowds, the numbers, the quarterly reports - everything except the ONE person that God has placed right beside us. The neighbor who's a single parent. The daughter who struggles with depression. The wife who feels unnoticed. The son who didn't make the team. The friend who can't seem to "stay on the wagon."

The boss you don't like.

No one expected Jesus to stop, but he did. And he didn't stop with a pitiful nod or a "*hope-things-are-ok*" glance. No, Jesus stopped the entire party. He halted everything that he was doing to look up. No one would have judged him for moving ahead, after all - he was Jesus and he was on his way to save the world. But the story doesn't stop there.

*Jesus left the RIGHTEOUS
to go with the SINNER.*

Zacchaeus wasn't just a short guy, he was a bad guy! He's the kind of guy your momma warned you about. He was the "chief tax collector" and he was notorious for his cruelty and deceit by over-collecting the required tax. The Romans had incited heavy taxation on the Jewish people, and they used crooked Jews to collect the taxes from their own people. Zacchaeus was the worst kind of person - he was a traitor. His contact list was a sorted bunch and his parties were the talk of the town. But that didn't stop Jesus from going to his house!

*Jesus didn't come to LOOK good,
He came to DO good!*

Jesus didn't care about his religious reputation because he was secure in his father's approval. He didn't care about the hype, he came to help. He didn't come to be served - *Jesus came to serve others*. And in this encounter . . .

Serving started with SEEING.

Jesus didn't see Zacchaeus the way others saw him. He didn't see him for what he had done, he saw him for what he would

become. He didn't see him as a project to be fixed, but as a friend to be loved. He didn't see him as an outcast, he saw him as a child of God that was lost.

Jesus came to SEEK and to SAVE the Lost.

So he went to the party! And somewhere in the middle of the drinks, dinner, and dancing - Zacchaeus stood up and declared to God and everybody else that he would *"give half of his wealth to the poor, and pay back everyone he had cheated four-fold."* Wow. Talk about about coming clean!

Zacchaeus was ready to change everything.

Why? Because Jesus, the Messiah, the Savior, the *"Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world,"* saw him in a tree and was seated at his table. Jesus saw the ONE.

How about you?

- Do you notice the needy?
- The hurting?
- The lonely?
- The sinner?

Do you see others the way God sees them? Ask God to open your eyes today to see the hundreds of opportunities that surround you every day!

Matthew 25:35-40

³⁵ Jesus said, "For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. ³⁶ I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me."

³⁷ Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? ³⁹ When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

⁴⁰ And the King will say, "I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the LEAST of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to ME!"