

The Difference A Day Makes

Introduction

Text: Luke 19:1-10 Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. 2 Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. 3 And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." 6 So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. 7 But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." 8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." 9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; 10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

1. there are many days in a persons life and most of those day are not real remember able and do not have a great impact on our life.
2. There are some days in our life that are very significant and make an impact, and our life changes completely from that day forward.
2. It is of interest that Jesus says to Zacchaeus “**Today salvation has come to this house**”, **Luke 19:9**
2. He speaks of something of great importance happening on that day.
3. This means Zaccheus could look back and see a lot of Changes that the day had brought forth.

I. Zacchaeus Began As A Man But Became As A Boy

- A. Yes, **Zacchaeus** is called a man (v.2)
- B. But in his desire to see Jesus, Zacchaeus does those things that are like a boy.
 1. **Zacchaeus** ran and Climbed a tree (v.4)
 2. It’s not usual to see a man running and climbing a tree, unless there is and emergency or eagerness..
- C. However, we are to become as little children when we come to Jesus and enter his Kingdom
 1. Jesus on another occasion spoke of this very thing **Matt 18:2-3** Then Jesus called a **little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.**
 2. We are to have the genuineness and desire of a child (**1 Peter 2:1-3** Therefore, laying aside all malice, all guile, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, 2 as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, 3 if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.
 3. He manifested this very attitude.

II. Zacchaeus Began As One In The Crowd, But He Is Singled Out As An Individual.

- A. **Zacchaeus** Could Not See For The Crowd. (V. 3)
 1. He is one among many.
 2. Jesus singled him out to call him by name

- B. We often find ourselves in groups, classes or crowds, but we will be held accountable as individuals.
1. It was a Crowd that Killed Christ but they were held responsible as individuals. **Acts 2:22-38**
 - 2.. Also, Christ died for all but Salvation will be based upon each individual's response.
 - a. Faith is an individual matter **"And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is" Heb 11:6**
 - b. Repentance is individual **Acts 17:30-31 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,**
 - c. We Confess Christ as an individual **Rom 10:8-10 But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**
 - d. Baptism is individual **Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**
 - e. We must live a Christian life as an individual.
 3. Some might think that their religion is good enough for them, if it was good enough for their parents.
 - a. But we will be judged as individuals, we cannot base what we do on what our parents have or have not done.
 - b. We need to obey Gods word based upon our own knowledge of his will not on anyone else's knowledge.
 4. Some might think well I am O.K. because I go the Church at Madisonville, and you know it's a pretty good sound Church that seems to be growing.
 - a. But we will not be judged as a Church.
 - b. We will be judged and individuals. **2 Cor 5:9-11 Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 11 Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.**
 5. Have we as an individual obeyed the gospel steps of salvation outlined just a few minutes ago
 6. Are we as an individual living the Christian life.
 - a. Are we personally living a good moral life not being conformed to this world? **Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**
 - b. Are we personally practicing pure religion? **James 1: 27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world.**

- c. Are we personally fulfilling the great commission? **Matt 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.**
- d. There is a Church collection, but the Bible says, **“On the first day of every week let each one of you put aside and save, as he may prosper”, 1 Cor 16:1-2**
 - 1. This means every first day of the week.
 - 2. Even when I am sick
 - 3. Even when I am on vacation.
 - 4. We have a responsibility as individuals to support the Local Church where we are members, and that means where we attend on a regular basis.
- 6. So even though we may see ourselves as one in the crowd, Jesus sees us as he did Zaccheus as an individual.

III. He Began The Day As A Lost Man But Ended As One Saved. (vs. 9-10)

- A. The Lord said that Zaccheus was saved which implies he had been lost.
 - 1. That means he was in the wrong place in his relationship to God and right.
 - 2. This is true of all lost people.
 - a. **Isa 59:2 your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.**
 - b. **Rom 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**
- B. This is illustrated in **Luke 15:1-7 Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. 2 And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." 3 So He spoke this parable to them, saying: 4 What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' 7 I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.**
 - 1. If he loses it or it is out of place. **Luke 15:8 "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?**
 - 2. We must realize that we are lost and not in the Right relationship with God before we will come to him. (vs 17,18)
 - 2. Zaccheus is now in his right place before God.
 - (what did he have to do to get there)

IV. He Began The Day With Deficiencies, And Ended With A Resolution To Do The Right Thing (V. 8).

- A. There are deficiencies in life, and we must repent of them
 - 1. And some we can make right and should make right.
 - 2. He had money that was not his.

3. In order to truly repent he had to make things right, and that involved giving it back.
 4. Repentance is not always just a matter of doing right from this point onward but making wrong in the past right if we possibly can.
 - a. If someone has a garage full of stolen goods and then he becomes a Christian, not only must he stop stealing
 - b. He must turn his goods in to the police and try to rectify the wrong.
 - B. Before the day was over, he would take care of the matter.
 - C. This shows him to be the true son of Abraham.
- V. He Began as the host but ended with him as guest.**
- A. He would provide food, but the Lord provided something greater.
 - B. The Lord is always the provider. **John 4:8-15 Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. 10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."**
 - C. **John 6:53-59 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. 58 This is the bread which came down from heaven--not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever." 59 These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum.**
 - D. Jesus is the provider but we must invite him to be our guest. **Rev 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.**

Conclusion

1. **At the end of that day you have a rejoicing soul**
 - a. One who is confident rather than just curious?
 - b. You see a happy home rather than just a rich one.
2. You see a right prospect because of what happened that day.
3. Invitation.
 - a. Are you a Christian?
 - b. Won't you let this day be the day that will change your life for the better?
 - c. Perhaps you are a Christian but you have not been the responsible Christian that you should be.
 - d. The Lord gives us a solution for that as well **1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**