

Series: URGENT!

Text: Luke 19:1-10; Romans 3:11, 23; Revelation 3:17, 20; Philippians 4:19; Ephesians 1:7

Title: "The Savior"

Introduction: WELCOME, BMZ! Glad you are with us TODAY as we CONTINUE our SERIES called: "URGENT"! SO, we BEGAN the YEAR with a REMINDER we EACH have a GREAT WORK to DO ... in 2022! IF we are going to LOVE GOD with all our BEING, we need to KNOW WHO HE IS!

As we MOVE toward EASTER (April 17th), we are using LUKE'S ACCOUNT of the DAYS LEADING UP to the CRUCIFIXION. Jesus KNEW He only had LIMITED TIME LEFT with His Disciples / Followers and it SURE SEEMED LIKE He had some things to DO and SAY that were URGENT!

According to LUKE, way back in LUKE 9 (v.51), it says JESUS TURNED RESOLUTELY TOWARD JERUSALEM. JESUS KNEW He WHY He was GOING and WHAT was GOING to HAPPEN there. MULTIPLE TIMES, Jesus TOLD the DISCIPLES the PURPOSE of the TRIP. RIGHT BEFORE we PICK UP our VERSES for TODAY,

JESUS tells them AGAIN ... LUKE 18:31-33 = ³¹ *Taking the twelve disciples aside, Jesus said, "Listen, we're going up to Jerusalem, where all the predictions of the prophets concerning the Son of Man will come true. ³² He will be handed over to the Romans, and he will be mocked, treated shamefully, and spit upon. ³³ They will flog him with a whip and kill him, but on the third day he will rise again."* ¹ And JESUS went anyway. As Jesus gets CLOSER to JERUSALEM, you can ALMOST FEEL the TENSION BUILDING, AND for JESUS, the TIME growing SHORT. **(MAP from GALILEE to JERICHO to JERUSALEM)**

PAUSE ... **WHY was Jesus going to JERUSALEM? PURPOSE: To DIE on a CROSS to SAVE ALL people THROUGHOUT HISTORY from ETERNAL DEATH DUE to SIN. The WAGES of SIN is DEATH and JESUS was going to JERUSALEM to PAY the PRICE.**

BUT ... WHY did Jesus' FOLLOWERS THINK Jesus was GOING to JERUSALEM? WHY did JESUS have MANY FOLLOWING Him on the ROAD from GALILEE to JERUSALEM? Well, Jesus TWELVE DISCIPLES and MANY OTHERS thought JESUS was going to Jerusalem to TAKE OVER POLITICALLY. They thought the MESSIAH would be a MILITARY POWER and POLITICAL LEADER who would SAVE the NATION from the ROMAN Empire and DEFEAT ALL their ENEMIES and BRING PEACE to the NATION of ISRAEL. The Messiah came from the LINE of DAVID ... KING DAVID. He MUST be COMING for the SAME PURPOSE as KING DAVID ... The LAST GREAT KING of ISRAEL who DEFEATED their ENEMIES and BROUGHT PEACE to the NATION of ISRAEL...

Like I asked on ASH Wednesday, WHY did PETER have a SWORD in the GARDEN? Simple. He was thinking REVOLUTION!

WHY were JAMES and JOHN ARGUING over WHO would be on JESUS RIGHT and LEFT when they GOT to JERUSALEM? They were THINKING KINGDOM on EARTH ... 30-50 YEARS of PEACE and Prosperity. Something GOOD for their TEMPORARY LIVES. But that was NOT the PLAN!

A Couple SIGNIFICANT things HAPPEN in JERICHO because of JESUS. A BEGGAR is HEALED of his BLINDNESS, and a TAX COLLECTOR gets SAVED. Today, let's FOCUS on the SECOND ONE ... The TAX Collector.

Now, in the Book of LUKE, we FIND Dr. LUKE FOCUSING on WHO JESUS ... REALLY IS. NOT our THOUGHTS of WHO we HOPE He is, but WHO He REALLY IS. Well, the REAL JESUS is REVEALED in JERICO ... **LUKE 19:1 = *Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town.*** ²

GRAB your NOTES and Let's LEARN a REALITY of JESUS the SAVIOR ...

THE SAVIOR CHANGES YOU:

You can NOT SAY you've MET JESUS and REMAIN the SAME! There is EVIDENCE of SIGNIFICANT TRANSFORMATION of LIFE in JERICO ... **LUKE 19:2-4 = *There was a man there 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.* ³ CHIEF Tax Collector = A Tax Collector ... AND a SUPERVISOR of other TAX COLLECTORS. Like, he's HELPING OTHERS be NOTORIOUS SINNERS!

The name "ZACCHAEUS" means "Righteous One". But the Jewish RELIGIOUS Community would NOT THINK he was LIVING UP to his NAME. "RIGHTEOUS" = in a RIGHT RELATIONSHIP with GOD ... HOLY / PURE. NOT this ZACCHAEUS! Not only did Zacchaeus COLLECT TAXES for the ROMANS (working for Gentiles!) from his OWN PEOPLE, but he also ASSISTED OTHER JEWISH MEN in doing the SAME THING!

Just a reminder, these TAX COLLECTORS were NOTORIOUS for COLLECTING MORE taxes than REQUIRED so they could MAKE MORE MONEY for THEMSELVES ... with PERMISSION from the ROMANS ... to STEAL from their OWN PEOPLE.

Like, ZACCHAEUS was a NOTORIOUS SINNER and ENEMY in the EYES of the JEWS. But THINK HOW Jesus SAW HIM ... a PRECIOUS LOST SINNER. And JESUS wanted ZACCHAEUS to be SAVED and to EXPERIENCE CHANGE / TRANSFORMATION.

#1 = A MAN Became a CHILD

ZACCHAEUS CHANGED, because of JESUS, from a MAN to a CHILD. On that day JESUS came through TOWN, ZACH ACTED a BIT CHILDISH! In that part of the WORLD in the FIRST Century, it would be UNUSUAL to see a GROWN MAN RUNNING ... especially a WEALTHY Government Official. That DAY, ZACH was RUNNING down the STREET like a LITTLE BOY as he FOLLOWED the CROWD ... THEN, he CLIMBED a TREE!

CURIOSITY is certainly a CHARACTERISTIC of MOST KIDS ... and it APPEAR ZACH was MOTIVATED by his CURIOSITY. It's been SAID (John Calvin) "**CURIOSITY is a PREPARATION for FAITH**". People get CURIOUS about JESUS. WHO IS HE? Why do I NEED HIM? Zacchaeus was CURIOUS. WHO is HE? Why are SO MANY FOLLOWING HIM? WHAT am I MISSING?

JESUS ALSO SAID that we need CURIOSITY and FAITH like a CHILD ... **LUKE 18:17 = *I tell you the truth, anyone who doesn't receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.***" ⁴

You know, I think MORE than ANYTHING ELSE, it is PRIDE in our "**GROWN-UPNESS**" that PREVENTS "**SUCCESSFUL**" people FROM TRUSTING in JESUS. The REAL JESUS? You need to SWALLOW your PRIDE in your OWN THOUGHTS and ABILITIES and have the FAITH of a CHILD to be SAVED. Jesus the SAVIOR AWAITS... **LUKE 19:5 = *When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home***

² Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 19:1). Tyndale House Publishers.
³ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 19:2-4). Tyndale House Publishers.
⁴ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 18:17). Tyndale House Publishers.

today.”⁵

When ZACH ran DOWN the STREET and CLIMBED a TREE, he THOUGHT He was SEEKING JESUS, but JESUS was a STEP AHEAD ...

#2 = A SEEKING Man Became FOUND

Throughout His LIFE on EARTH, JESUS SELDOM if EVER had HAPHAZARD MEETINGS. MUCH LIKE Jesus had an APPOINTMENT with the SAMARITAN WOMAN at the WELL, INTENTIONALLY going through SAMARIA on that TRIP to MEET that PARTICULAR WOMAN ... He was INTENTIONAL about going through JERICHO and MEETING ZACCHAEUS! Do you know WHY? Because...

Our NATURE as SINNERS is NOT to SEEK the SAVIOR! Paul reminds us ...

ROMANS 3:11 = ¹¹ *No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God.*⁶ We HIDE from the LORD. ADAM and EVE SINNED ... then HID. The LORD had to SEEK THEM OUT! Jesus did it THROUGHOUT His MINISTRY ... made APPOINTMENTS to meet with SINNERS. TODAY, the HOLY SPIRIT continues to SEEK the LOST for SALVATION ... USING the Church / EKKLESIA to ACCOMPLISH His WORK. That was JESUS' PLAN! Because SINNERS tend NOT to SEEK GOD ...

For ZACH, we do NOT have a BACK STORY. We DON'T know HOW God was WORKING in ZACH'S HEART. John WESLEY called it **“PREVENIENT GRACE”** ... God WORKING IN US and ON US BEFORE we were EVEN AWARE of GOD.

Not sure about ZACH. Was he an acquaintance of MATTHEW the Tax Collector? Had Matthew been PRAYING for ZACH? Was ZACCHAEUS just TIRED of his LIFE and LOOKING for something with MEANING / AUTHENTICITY / CHARACTER / DEPTH, and THAT DAY decided to CLIMB a TREE to FIND IT? What we KNOW is ... JESUS will ALWAYS FIND a SINNER looking for a NEW START! Awesome!

BUT anytime JESUS went SEEKING to FIND SINNERS, the PEOPLE did NOT UNDERSTAND ... They DON'T SEE PEOPLE the way JESUS does ... LUKE 19:7-8 = 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!”*⁷

Wow! Talk about **CHANGE** in a PERSON!

Ok. We KNOW ZACH was SHORT. It was NOT HIS FAULT. But, when JESUS came BY, He SWALLOWED his PRIDE and CLIMBED a TREE so he could SEE JESUS.

#3 = A SMALL Man Became BIG

It was the SWALLOWING of the PRIDE that made ALL the DIFFERENCE for ZACH! Think about this ... in a SPIRITUAL SENSE, we are all SHORT! We ALL come UP SHORT! We're ALL too SHORT to MEASURE UP to God's HIGH STANDARDS! ROMANS 3:23 = ²³ *For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.*⁸

TRAGICALLY, many SINNERS remain LOST / Separated from GOD for ETERNITY, because they THINK they are “BIG”. They MEASURE themselves by HUMAN STANDARDS like MONEY, POSSESSIONS, POSITION, POPULARITY, and Earthly POWER. These things MEAN NOTHING to JESUS. REVELATION 3:17 = ¹⁷ *You say, ‘I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!’ And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.*⁹ The MOMENT we ENTER ETERNITY, EVERYTHING of EARTH (money, possessions, power, etc.) IMMEDIATELY DISAPPEARS.

⁵ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 19:5). Tyndale House Publishers.

⁶ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Ro 3:11). Tyndale House Publishers.

⁷ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 19:7-8). Tyndale House Publishers.

⁸ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Ro 3:23). Tyndale House Publishers.

⁹ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Re 3:17). Tyndale House Publishers.

ZACCHAEUS GAVE those THINGS UP! ZACH became a TRUE CHILD of FAITH / ABRAHAM. Here's HOW Jesus said it ... LUKE 19:9 = ⁹ *Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham."*¹⁰

A MAN or WOMAN of FAITH is as BIG as you can get... ZACH CHANGED!

The PEOPLE of JERICHO would have considered Zacchaeus a WEALTHY MAN, but he WASN'T! He was a POOR SINNER who NEEDED the MOST EXPENSIVE GIFT of ALL ... SALVATION from JESUS and ETERNAL LIFE in God's PRESENCE.

#4 = A POOR Man Became RICH

BTW – This is the ONLY INSTANCE recorded in the New Testament of JESUS INVITING HIMSELF into a HOME. Zacchaeus is the ONLY ONE who had to DEAL with JESUS INVITING HIMSELF OVER.

It's the ONLY PLACE where Jesus ILLUSTRATES PHYSICALLY this VERSE about FAITH ... REVELATION 3:20 = ²⁰ *"Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends."*¹¹

Please do NOT get this MIXED UP. ZACH was NOT SAVED because he PROMISED to RETURN a BUNCH of MONEY. He was SAVED because he PLACED his FAITH in JESUS. He TRUSTED JESUS to SAVE HIM. Once he REALIZED what JESUS had DONE for HIM ... Saved a NOTORIOUS SINNER who DESERVED to DIE ETERNALLY ... ZACH RESPONDED with what he KNEW was the RIGHT / GOD-HONORING THING to DO.

See, SAVING FAITH is MORE than just some RELIGIOUS WORDS and some WARM and FUZZY FEELINGS ... it CREATES a PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP with JESUS, and it RESULTS in a CHANGED LIFE!

ZACCHAEUS was POOR in SPIRIT and TRUTH and JESUS REMINDED him he was a CHILD of GOD, RICH in GRACE and MERCY ... As CHILDREN of GOD, we have ALL the RICHES of ALMIGHTY GOD at our DISPOSAL ... PHILIPPIANS 4:19 = ¹⁹ *And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.*¹²

Now, to get to our FINAL WAY JESUS CHANGED ZACCHAEUS, we need to BACK UP and PICK UP Verse 6 ... LUKE 19:6 = ⁶ *Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy.*¹³ JESUS asked ZACH to HOST HIM in his HOME, but the DYNAMIC QUICKLY CHANGES ...

#5 = A HOST Became The GUEST

Jesus INVITED HIMSELF OVER to ZACH'S Home. Don't MISS THIS ... Zacchaeus RECEIVED Jesus' INVITATION with GREAT EXCITEMENT and JOY! "JOY" is one of the THEMES of LUKE'S WRITING ... CERTAINLY the EXPERIENCE of SALVATION brings JOY in a BELIEVER!

WHEN they GET THERE, Zacchaeus QUICKLY became a GUEST in his OWN HOUSE. WHY? Because JESUS BECAME his MASTER! And ZACCHAEUS was READY to OBEY JESUS as his LORD and DO whatever it TOOK to be a WITNESS for JESUS to OTHER PEOPLE! He was OBEDIENT in MAKING RIGHT what he'd MADE WRONG ... He gave BACK a LOT of MONEY to PEOPLE. Do you THINK they were MORE LIKELY to LISTEN to ZACH'S STORY about JESUS? Why do YOU THINK we are STILL TALKING about a SHORT FORMER TAX COLLECTOR in 2022? Because

¹⁰ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 19:9). Tyndale House Publishers.

¹¹ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Rev 3:20). Tyndale House Publishers.

¹² Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Php 4:19). Tyndale House Publishers.

¹³ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 19:6). Tyndale House Publishers.

ZACCHAEUS was CHANGED / TRANSFORMED. He was NO LONGER the SAME! He was DIFFERENT ... He ACTED / LIVED / SPOKE DIFFERENTLY! He was DIFFERENT than HE HAD BEEN and DIFFERENT from MANY in the WORLD that day.

You know, RELIGIOUS CRITICS had a PROBLEM with JESUS going to a TAX COLLECTOR'S HOUSE. Remember? LUKE 19:7 = ⁷ *But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled.*

JESUS DIDN'T PAY ATTENTION to WORLDLY CRITICS, even if they CLAIMED to be RELIGIOUS. He had WORK to DO. Jesus CAME for a PURPOSE ... LUKE 19:10 = ¹⁰ *For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.* ¹⁴

Jesus has NOT STOPPED. The PROBLEM: THERE ARE SO MANY who do NOT KNOW they are LOST or will NOT HUMBLE THEMSELVES and ADMIT to JESUS they are LOST. MANY will NOT become like ZACCHAEUS ... CURIOUS with a CHILD-LIKE FAITH ... MANY are so ARROGANT about HOW THEY THINK THINGS SHOULD BE ... they will REMAIN LOST. Eternity is a LONG TIME and Jesus showed us HELL is MISERABLE.

So, you WANT to be TRULY RICH? Don't get CAUGHT UP in the RICHES of the WORLD. INSTEAD, remember this ... EPHESIANS 1:7 = ⁷ *He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins.* ¹⁵

Jesus was URGENT about this MESSAGE. He MADE SURE He MET up with ZACCHAEUS in his LAST DAYS. JESUS REMINDS US that **The ONLY TRUE FREEDOM you will EVER EXPERIENCE comes from JESUS' BLOOD on a CROSS.**

Please, ALLOW JESUS (Surrender to Him and BELIEVE) to CHANGE your ETERNITY ... it will CHANGE YOU! You will NOT be able to STOP YOURSELF from INVITING OTHERS to MEET JESUS!

Let's Pray!

Next Steps: *Memorize Luke 18:17*
Read Luke 19 and Romans 3
I commit to attend the "Urgent!" series over the next few weeks
Pray about who I will invite with me to worship for Easter, April 17th

¹⁴ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Lk 19:10). Tyndale House Publishers.

¹⁵ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Eph 1:7). Tyndale House Publishers.

Hosting (Closing)

HEY, it has been a GREAT DAY here at BMZ... Glad you've been here with us!
In a moment, we are going to RECEIVE the OFFERING so please take this time to finish COMPLETING any information

- Or NEXT STEPS on your CONNECTION CARD (**FULLY FILLED OUT!!**)
- AND when our ushers come around to RECEIVE our OFFERING
- You can drop that card in the offering basket.

IF you are a First-Time Guest with us today

• We are so glad you joined us ... And we have a GIFT for you.
It's this book "**UNSHAKABLE**" and it's at the BACK TABLE / By the DOORS...

- all you need to do is **HIT "SEND"** your COMPLETED Connection Card

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As our ushers GET READY to come forward

- I just want to remind you ... STEWARDSHIP is DISCIPLESHIP ... we RECEIVE an OFFERING EVERY Sunday BECAUSE it's BIBLICAL ... AND it HELPS us GROW in our FAITH!
- STEWARDSHIP VERSE ... PHILIPPIANS 4:19 = ¹⁹ *And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus.* ¹⁶
- FIRST of our EARNINGS go back to the ONE who Blessed us in the 1st place! That's why WE/I do Automated Giving! I get paid ... the TITHE comes OUT FIRST!
- God's plan for BUILDING His Church was through TITHING and GIVING of the FOLLOWERS ... Share the GOOD NEWS! To REFRESH OTHERS!
- As Developing Followers of Jesus Christ, WE need to KNOW what the BIBLE says about GIVING ... NOT just what we THINK it should say.
- **MONEY is a HEART ISSUE.** And GOD wants what is BEST for your HEART! Listen, if GOD LOVES US so much that HE is willing to GIVE UP His OWN SON FOR US, WHY would GOD LEAD us ASTRAY in FINANCES?! USHERS ...
- Next Week: **The MASTER DRAWS some URGENT LINES in the SAND!**

"Truth without Grace is Fundamentalism (Brutality). Grace without Truth is Sentimentalism (Hypocrisy)."

Special thanks to Warren Wiersbe, Nelson Searcy, and R.A. Pegram for outlines and ideas for this worship series.