

In his encounter with Jesus, he found more than he imagined possible. He shows the depth of his repentance by deciding to give half of his goods to the poor and to use the other half for making restitution for fraud. Zacchaeus' testimony included more than words. His change of heart resulted in a change of life, a change that the whole community could experience as genuine.

Memorial of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary

2 Maccabees 6:18-31

Psalm 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

Luke 19:1-10 He entered Jericho and was passing through. (2) And there was a man named Zacchae'us; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. (3) And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. (4) So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. (5) And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchae'us, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." (6) So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. (7) And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." (8) And Zacchae'us stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." (9) And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. (10) For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

Meditation by Don Schwager

What would you do if Jesus knocked on your door and said, "I must stay at your home today"? Would you be excited or embarrassed? Jesus often "dropped-in" at unexpected times and he often visited the "uninvited" – the poor, the lame, and even public sinners like Zacchaeus, the tax collector!

Tax collectors were despised and treated as outcasts, no doubt because they over-charged people and accumulated great wealth at the expense of others. Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector and was much hated by all the people. Why would Jesus single him out for the honor of staying at his home? Zacchaeus needed God's merciful love and forgiveness. In his encounter with Jesus he found more than he imagined possible. He shows the depth of his repentance by deciding to give half of his goods to the poor and to use the other half for making restitution for fraud. Zacchaeus' testimony included more than words. His change of heart

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Saint Augustine of Hippo urges us to climb the sycamore tree like Zacchaeus that we might see Jesus and embrace his cross for our lives:

Zacchaeus climbed away from the crowd and saw Jesus without the crowd getting in his way. The crowd laughs at the lowly, to people walking the way of humility, who leave the wrongs they suffer in God's hands and do not insist on getting back at their enemies. The crowd laughs at the lowly and says, "You helpless, miserable clod, you cannot even stick up for yourself and get back what is your own." The crowd gets in the way and prevents Jesus from being seen. The crowd boasts and crows when it is able to get back what it owns. It blocks the sight of the one who said as he hung on the cross, "Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing. ... He ignored the crowd that was getting in his way. He instead climbed a sycamore tree, a tree of "silly fruit." As the apostle says, "We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block indeed to the Jews, [now notice the sycamore] but folly to the Gentiles." Finally, the wise people of this world laugh at us about the cross of Christ and say, "What sort of minds do you people have, who worship a crucified God?" What sort of minds do we have? They are certainly not your kind of mind. "The wisdom of this world is folly with God." No, we do not have your kind of mind. You call our minds foolish. Say what you like, but for our part, let us climb the sycamore tree and see Jesus. The reason you cannot see Jesus is that you are ashamed to climb the sycamore tree.

Let Zacchaeus grasp the sycamore tree, and let the humble person climb the cross. That is little enough, merely to climb it. We must not be ashamed of the cross of Christ, but we must fix it on our foreheads, where the seat of shame is. Above where all our blushes show is the place we must firmly fix that for which we should never blush. As for you, I rather think you make fun of the sycamore, and yet that is what has enabled me to see Jesus. You make fun of the sycamore, because you are just a person, but "the foolishness of God is wiser than men. Sermon 174.3.

The Lord Jesus is always ready to make his home with each one of us. Do you make room for him in your heart and in every area of your life?

"Lord Jesus, come and stay with me. Fill my life with your peace, my home with your presence, and my heart with your praise. Help me to show kindness, mercy, and goodness to all, even to those who cause me ill-will or harm."

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Supplementary Reading
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{xtypo_quote} . . . love is the fulfillment of the law. – Romans 13:10 {/xtypo_quote}

My husband does small deeds that make our bond grow stronger. I remember when we were just married and didn't have a car, he would wait for me at a bus stop, sometimes for hours, just so we could ride home together for the rest of the way. He would remember to greet me on our "month-sary" twice — on the wedding and the "going steady" dates. He'd scribble for me small love notes and I'd reciprocate them.

It's like that with Jesus. He shows me bits of His love that solidifies my relationship with Him. He'd give me a parking space at a crowded mall. A check I lost is found after I say a short prayer. The fish in our pond died but, after a few days, we discovered fingerlings in the same pond. We grieved over the loss of our pet African lovebirds that were ravaged by cats but, after a week, we caught a parrot trapped in our house.

I take all these as His way of saying "I love you." And I'll say the same to Him... forever.
---Donna España

REFLECTION:

{xtypo_quote} Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things. Love never fails. (1Corinthians 13:7) {/xtypo_quote}

Teach me, Father, to love as Jesus loved! Amen.

For meditation/readings of the previous days/months , please click any o

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GOD BLESS US ALL! O Theos Na Mas Evlogisi!

PRAY

as if everything depended on **HIM** **ACT**

as if everything depended on **YOU**.

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