



Sermon
Discussion
Guide

Sunday, October 9, 2022

Best Reason for Thanksgiving

Read/Reflect

1. Read the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10 again. Why do you think Jesus said he “must” stay at Zacchaeus’ house?
2. The word translated as “mutter” in the NIV means to “grumble” or to “complain.” Why do you think the people grumbled when they saw Jesus invite Himself to stay at Zacchaeus’s house?
3. What do you think Zacchaeus’ action in v.8 signify? Why do you think he’s telling Jesus that he’ll do all this?

Explore

4. How have you seen Jesus take the first step in bringing salvation to your own life (and to your household)?
Take some time to share stories of how you came to encounter Jesus.
5. Commenting on the people grumbling at Jesus inviting himself to stay at Zacchaeus’ house, Darrell Bock, a biblical scholar, notes that “Too often people are unwilling to let the despised find God.”¹ Do you think this statement is true? In what ways have you seen this happen? Who might be the “despised” in our society today?
6. Seeing Zacchaeus’s transformation (demonstrated by his action in v.8), Jesus declares that salvation has come to his house (v.9). It’s not that salvation has come on the basis of Zacchaeus’s action but his response in v.8 is a result of the transformation that has taken place in Zacchaeus’ heart in encountering Jesus. How have you seen transformation take place in your own life (or in the life of others) as a result of encountering Jesus?
7. Jesus said that He came to seek and to save the lost (v.10). How do you find your heart responding to this? Does it bring you comfort? Does it give you hope? If so, how? Share with your group.

Pray

- Take a moment to pray and thank God for taking the first step in making a way through His Son Jesus for you (and your household) to be reconciled and redeemed to be His child, to be a part of His family. Thank Him for salvation. Thank him for being the Good Shepherd who seeks and saves the lost. Praise Him for His love, His goodness and faithfulness.
- Are there people in your life that are “lost” whom God may be bringing to your attention – whether believers who have strayed from God or those who do not yet know God? Pray for them by name. Pray that they would encounter the transforming power of the love of Christ. In the coming weeks, reach out to them and if possible, sit down with them and catch up over coffee or lunch.

¹ Darrell Bock, *Luke*, vol. 2, pg. 1524.