



## I Deserve Rejection, But He Gave Me Acceptance

Sunday, November 18, 2018  
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<sup>1</sup> Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. <sup>2</sup> There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. <sup>3</sup> He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup> 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 today." <sup>6</sup> Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. <sup>7</sup> But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled. <sup>8</sup> 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!" <sup>9</sup> Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

Luke 19:1-10 NLT

### 1. Why was Zacchaeus rejected by his people?

- He was chief tax collector
- He rejected and betrayed his people

### 2. Why did Jesus accept Zacchaeus?

- Saw his searching heart
- Saw his need for love and acceptance
- Jesus came to seek and save the lost

<sup>7</sup> "Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. <sup>8</sup> For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. **Matthew 7:7-8 NLT**

<sup>12</sup> In those days when you pray, I will listen. <sup>13</sup> If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you," says the LORD. **Jeremiah 29:12-14 NLT**

### Next Steps:

- ☐ Re-read today's Bible story
- ☐ Commit to keep on seeking God with all I have
- ☐ Rest in the knowledge that Jesus loves me, is seeking my best, and that he accepts me no matter what I've done or where I've been
- ☐ Give God praise and thanks that he doesn't give me what I deserve
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