

Jesus and Zacchaeus

Lesson 17

Luke 19:1-10

Memory Verse

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

Introducción

Have you ever been where you couldn't see someone you wanted to see because the crowd was too big? This happened in today's lesson. A man wanted to see Jesus but he couldn't because the crowd was too big.

Scripture

Luke 19:1-4

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. 4So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

Jesus was going through the town of Jericho. Many people wanted to see Him. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus too. Zacchaeus could not see above the people because he was a short man. Zacchaeus thought of a plan. It seemed kind of strange, but he did something that not many grown-ups do.

Luke 19:5-7

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.' "

Discusión

Ask: What did Jesus choose to go to Zacchaeus' house?

Zacchaeus thought of a plan. It seemed kind of strange. He did something that not many grown-ups do. He ran ahead on the path and climbed a tree. Zacchaeus climbed up a tree!

When he got in the tree, he waited for Jesus to walk by. When Jesus got to the tree, He looked up at Zacchaeus and said, "Zacchaeus come down. I want to visit you at your house today."

Excitedly, Zacchaeus climbed down the tree. He felt glad that Jesus wanted to visit him and that He cared enough to talk to him. Jesus even knew his name!

Ask: Is it important to you that people know your name?

Almost everyone prefers to be called by name. We like for people to care enough to ask our name and to recognized us. It means that they focused enough to remember our name. In other words that they valued us as a person.

The people couldn't believe what Jesus was doing. They told Jesus that Zacchaeus was a mean man. Zacchaeus was a rich tax collector. He collected taxes from people. It's like when you buy candy at the store. You have to pay a little money to the cashier for taxes.

Discussion

Sometimes, Zacchaeus cheated people and asked for more than was needed. The people had to give him the money—even if he was wrong. This made them very mad at him. They hated him for cheating them. The people only noticed the wrong that Zacchaeus did. Sometimes, we also ignore our wrong choices and point out others' mistakes.

Ask: Why did the people complain about Jesus going to the home of Zacchaeus?

People are going to complain for many reasons. They will complain because they believe they are better than someone else. They will complain because they are jealous. They will complain because they have suffered an injustice as was the case with Zacchaeus. We should not allow what people say to guide us. The Holy Spirit should be our guide.

Luke 19: 8-10

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

Ask: What happened to Zacchaeus when Jesus chose to go to his home?

Zacchaeus became a changed person. He let Jesus be the Lord of his life. He told Jesus that he would give half of what he owned to the poor. He would also repay people four times what he cheated them. So if he cheated them out of a dollar, he would give them four dollars! Zacchaeus loved Jesus with all his heart and wanted to do the right thing from then on. He wanted to change and be like Jesus. The people saw that Zacchaeus had changed. They knew that Jesus had made a difference in his life. Zacchaeus no longer cheated people anymore.

Application

Ask: Would you like your life to change like Zacchaeus' life?

Jesus can change our lives like He changed the life of Zacchaeus. When we ask Jesus to come into our lives, He changes us.

Ask: What does it mean to grow as a Christian?

It means that we obey God. We learn to do what God wants us to do as we read the Bible, pray, listen to sermons and have fellowship with other believers. We want to do what Jesus would do. We want to be honest and do the right thing. It also means listening to God and talking to Him. We can do this by reading the Bible and praying.

Ask: What does it mean to have Jesus as Lord of your life?

Just as a director of a movie shows people where to go, what to say, and how to act, Jesus wants to direct our lives and guide us so we don't get into trouble or make wrong mistakes.

Ask: Would you like to invite Jesus into your life?

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 tell us that we need to do two things. First, we have to confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Second, we have to be in our heart that God has raised him from the dead. Then we will be saved and we will have a new life.