



GIVING

GOD'S WAY

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APRIL 10, 2022 / THE JOY OF GIVING / LUKE 19:1-10

ON HIS WAY TO PALM SUNDAY, JESUS ENCOUNTERS A MAN NAMED ZACCHAEUS. EVEN FOR THOSE OF US WHO HAVE HEARD THIS STORY BEFORE, IT IS MUCH RICHER AND MORE COMPELLING THAN WE HAVE TAKEN THE TIME TO OBSERVE. BY STUDYING THE INTERACTION JESUS HAD WITH ZACCHAEUS, WE SEE OURSELVES IN THE PROCESS. WE SHOULD ALSO STOP TO ASK OURSELVES THE QUESTION, "AM I GIVING OUT OF OBLIGATION OR OUT OF JOY?"

1. What was a time in your life when you experienced true joy? Share briefly with the group.
2. Read Luke 19:1-10. What stands out most to you as you first read this passage?
3. The name Zacchaeus means "pure" or "innocent." This stands in stark contrast with how Zacchaeus extorted money as a tax collector. Have there been times in your life when your actions haven't lined up with who you claim to be? If so, share with the group.
4. What other attributes do you observe about Zacchaeus from Luke 19:2-4?
5. In Luke 19:5, Jesus "looks up" at Zacchaeus. That phrase literally means "receives sight." Rather than seeing Zacchaeus the way the crowd does, Jesus sees Zacchaeus as he was created to be. What does it feel like when you live by the expectations of others, not by who God says you are?
6. What does Zacchaeus' reaction tell you about his view of Jesus?
7. Jesus restores honor to Zacchaeus by announcing that he is part of the community again. In the process, Jesus releases Zacchaeus of the shame that he has experienced for countless years. Has Jesus ever freed you from shame? What was the joy like on the other side?
8. Jesus describes his purpose statement in Luke 19:10. We can take comfort in the fact that if we are seeking Jesus, it is because he is seeking us first. Have you ever felt like Jesus was seeking you out? If so, how?
9. What would it look like to give our time, talent, and treasure out of the joy we are experiencing in our relationship with Jesus?