

## ***Impossible People*** February 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014

### ***Luke 19:1-10***

In Luke 18:25, Jesus stated, “*For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God.*” A very short time later, Zacchaeus, a very rich man, came on the scene! What Jesus did for this man reveals the unhindered power of God to do the impossible and transform any life! In Luke 19:1-10, we find a beautiful progression of how a person comes out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light!

**Zacchaeus was Rich, but he Ran, he Received, he Repented, and he was Reconciled**

#### **Rich – Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector and very rich.**

- He was the head over other tax collectors.
- He gained his wealth at the expense of others.
  - ↳ Remember that tax collectors were considered traitors to their fellow Jews. They worked for the Roman government and took advantage of their position by charging extra for their own benefit.
- ❖ Zacchaeus was successful in the eyes of his peers.

#### **Ran – Zacchaeus desired to see Jesus.**

- His religious heritage (son of Abraham) did not secure him.
- His wealth did not fulfill him.

*“There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavy on mankind: a man to whom God gives wealth, possessions, and honor, so that he lacks nothing of all that he desires, yet God does not give him power to enjoy them, but a stranger enjoys them. This is vanity; it is a grievous evil.” Ecclesiastes 6:1-2*
- His success did not satisfy him.
- ❖ Zacchaeus displayed an urgency in his pursuit of Jesus!

#### **Received – Zacchaeus received Jesus joyfully.**

- Jesus did not say “Can I come to your house today?” He did say “*I must stay at your house today.*” Jesus was seeking Zacchaeus! Jesus’ encounter with Zacchaeus was part of His divine mission “*...to seek and to save the lost.*”
- Jesus constantly touched the most unlikely people – lepers, prostitutes, poor blind people, Samaritans, the rich tax collector!
- ❖ Jesus reached out to people marginalized by their society!

*“...they all grumbled, ‘He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.’”*

**Oh the Grace of God!**

### **Repented – Zacchaeus was changed, evidenced by his repentance.**

- He gave half of his goods to the poor – willingly!
  - ↳ The rich young ruler was called to give all, but he was unwilling!
- ❖ Not all rich are called to give everything but the rich must be willing to give to the poor and to share with others.

*“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.” 1 Timothy 6:17-19*
- He restored four-fold to those that he had defrauded. He went far beyond the law that only required a fifth to be added to the payment. *Leviticus 6:5; Numbers 5:7*
- ❖ Zacchaeus was freed from self-pursuits and was now free to be a blessing to others!

### **Reconciled – Zacchaeus was lost but now restored in relationship to God.**

- He was now saved ... *“Today salvation has come to this house, ...”*
- He was now a disciple of Christ ... *“Behold, Lord, ...”*
- ❖ Zacchaeus had now been given the ministry of reconciliation and healing!

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.” 2 Corinthians 5:17-19*

To God, there are no impossible people!  
*“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”*  
*Luke 19:10*