

Series Overview - God is so big yet cares for us individually

- Why are these stories in the Bible - Jesus relating to different types of people?
- Who they were before the face to face?
- The change - life transformed after the face to face.
- How so we related to encounters with Jesus from 2000 years ago?

Luke 19:1–10 (ESV) — ¹ He entered Jericho and was passing through. ² And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. ⁴ So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” ⁶ So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. ⁷ And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” ⁸ And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” ⁹ And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Week 3: Zacchaeus – From Greed to Generosity / The Greedy Tax Man

Before – “Who I Was” vv. 1-4

- o Chief tax collector who exploited others.
- o Looking for something different than what he had...HOPE

Isaiah 55:1–3 (ESV) — ¹ “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

QUESTION: Do you remember who you were before Jesus?

Face to Face – “What Jesus Did” vv. 5-10

- o Repentance
- o Desire to change

1 John 4:16 (ESV) — ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Romans 5:1–2 (NLT) — ¹ Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. ² Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God’s glory.

QUESTION: When was your ‘face to face’ (when you realized Jesus is who He says He is)?

After – “What Jesus is Doing” v. 8

- o Gives half his wealth to the poor and repays those he cheated.
- o According to Clement of Alexandria, Zacchaeus later became the bishop of Caesarea

Luke 9:23 (ESV) — ²³ And he said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

QUESTION: How has your ‘face to face’ w/ Jesus affected your life?

“Our worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God’s grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God’s grace.” —Jerry Bridges

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the benefit of acknowledging and remembering who I was before Jesus?
 2. What conversations, encounters, convictions led you to the moment in which you had to decide if Jesus was lunatic, liar, or Lord?
 3. What obstacles and struggles did you have to overcome, or risk you felt you were taking to surrender your life to Jesus as Lord and Savior?
 4. Looking back to that moment, do you see moments in your life in which you have changed because of Jesus?
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