

WEEK OF AUGUST 23, 2026

**5-Day Devotional
based on Sunday's message:**



More Than a Glimpse
Luke 19:1-10

Provided by



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Luke 19:1-10 (NLT)

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 because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. 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.” 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 the lost.”

Day 1: Looking for Jesus

Devotional

Even after years of following Jesus, it is possible to become familiar with Him without remaining attentive to Him. Then a question, a hardship, or a quiet stirring causes us to look again. For someone newer to faith, that same stirring may be the first desire to see who Jesus is. Zacchaeus began there. He had wealth, influence, and a reputation that followed him through Jericho. Yet when Jesus passed through town, he ran ahead and climbed a tree. For a man of his position, that was hardly dignified. Still, his desire for a glimpse became stronger than his concern about what the crowd might think. Zacchaeus did not yet understand where that small act would lead, but the Holy Spirit can already be at work in a heart that has begun to look toward Jesus.

Going Deeper

Curiosity is not the same as repentance and faith, but we should not despise a beginning. God is patient and attentive. He can use a question, an invitation, a crisis, or a quiet longing to draw someone closer to Christ. The right response is not to remain safely in the tree forever. It is to stay open when Jesus calls us nearer.

Quote

“Wanting to observe Jesus from a safe distance is not yet wholehearted devotion. But it may be where someone begins. We cannot see what the Holy Spirit is already doing in a heart that has started to look.”

Bible Verse

“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 because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.” - Luke 19:1-4 (NLT)

Reflection Question

What has recently caused you to look toward Jesus with fresh attention? Where is He calling you beyond curiosity or familiarity into deeper trust and obedience?

Today's Practice

Read Luke 19:1–4 slowly. Ask Jesus to show you where He is calling you closer, whether for the first time or into renewed faithfulness.

Prayer

Jesus, thank You that You continue to draw us closer, whether we are just beginning to look toward You or have followed You for many years. Keep my heart attentive to Your voice, deepen my faith, and lead me into renewed repentance and obedience. Amen.

Day 2: Known and Called

Devotional

Most of us know what it feels like to be reduced to a label. People may remember a failure, an occupation, a political opinion, a family history, or the worst thing they have heard about us. Once the label sticks, it can seem as if no one sees the person beneath it. The crowd knew Zacchaeus as a tax collector and a sinner. Jesus stopped beneath the tree and called him by name. Before Zacchaeus promised to change, Jesus said He must stay at his house that day. Grace moved first. Jesus did not ignore Zacchaeus's sin, but neither did He leave him trapped in it. He came close enough for truth, mercy, and transformation to enter the same room.

Going Deeper

This reveals the seeking heart of God. Jesus was traveling toward Jerusalem and the cross, yet stopping for Zacchaeus was part of His mission. Christ knows the whole truth about us and still calls us to receive Him. His grace is not permission to remain unchanged. It is the welcome that makes a changed life possible.

Quote

"Before we ever knew how to look for Him, He was seeking us. Before we could make ourselves presentable, He called us by name and invited us to receive Him. Every faithful attempt to help someone see Jesus begins with the truth that Jesus is already the One who seeks the lost."

Bible Verse

"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.'"
— Luke 19:5-7 (NLT)

Refection Question

Where have you allowed another person's label, or your own shame, to define you more than Jesus does? How is Jesus calling you closer today, and how will you respond?

Today's Practice

Write your name at the top of a page. Under it, list three truths about how Jesus sees and receives those who turn to Him.

Prayer

Jesus, You know me more completely than anyone else, and still You move toward me with grace. Help me rest in Your welcome, remain attentive to Your voice, and continue answering Your call with honesty and trust. Amen.

Day 3: A Changed Direction

Devotional

A sincere apology can sound meaningful, but its truth becomes clearer when something changes afterward. Broken trust may require honesty. Harm may require restitution. A repeated pattern may require new boundaries or habits. Words matter, but a changed direction gives those words weight. Zacchaeus stood before Jesus and announced that he would give half his possessions to the poor and repay four times what he had taken dishonestly. His generosity did not cause Jesus to save him. Jesus had already entered his home in grace. These actions showed what that grace was doing within him. The money that had represented success and control was no longer his master.

Going Deeper

Jesus proclaimed, “Turn from your sins and believe this Good News!” Repentance and belief belong together. We turn from the old direction because we are entrusting ourselves to Jesus. Zacchaeus could not undo every consequence of his past, but he could confess what was wrong, repair what he could, and begin living differently. God is both gracious and holy. He forgives sinners and teaches us to walk in the light.

Quote

“Salvation had arrived in Jesus, and Zacchaeus had received Him. His actions showed that the encounter was more than emotional excitement. Grace had begun to reorder his life.”

Bible Verse

“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 the lost.” — Luke 19:8-10 (NLT)

“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!” - Mark 1:15 (NLT)

Reflection Question

Where is the Spirit showing you a gap between what you say you believe and how you are living? Is there a wrong you need to confess, a person you need to approach, or a practical change you need to make?

Today's Practice

Choose one concrete act of repentance. Confess it to God, then take the first appropriate step toward making it right.

Prayer

Father, thank You that salvation comes through Jesus and not through my attempts to repair myself. Show me where grace is calling me to change, and give me courage to make my repentance visible. Amen.

Day 4: A Lifelong Yes

Devotional

Some decisions are made in a moment but lived out over a lifetime. A wedding vow is spoken once, yet marriage requires daily faithfulness. A new direction may begin with one clear choice, but every ordinary day offers another opportunity to keep walking that way. Zacchaeus's life changed on the day Jesus entered his home, but repentance could not remain confined to that afternoon. Joshua told God's people to love the Lord, walk in His ways, obey His commands, hold firmly to Him, and serve Him with all their heart and soul. This is not automatic spiritual progress. It is an entire life continually placed before God.

Going Deeper

Lifelong obedience does not mean we save ourselves by steady improvement. Our acceptance rests completely on Christ. Philippians 2 holds dependence and action together: we put God's saving work into practice because God is already working within us, giving us both the desire and the power to please Him. God is faithful and active. Sanctification is His continuing work in willing, dependent people..

Quote

"Following Jesus is not a moment we leave behind. He keeps changing us for the rest of our lives. We never outgrow the need to repent, trust Him, and obey what He shows us."

Bible Verse

"But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul." — Joshua 22:5 (NLT)

"Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose." - Philippians 2:12-13 (NLT)

Reflection Question

Where have you been tempted to place your spiritual life on automatic pilot? What area of your ordinary life is Jesus asking you to bring more fully under His lordship?

Today's Practice

Choose one area where Jesus is calling you to deeper obedience. When that area confronts you today, pause and pray, "Lord, shape my desires and give me the power to obey You here." Then take the next faithful step He shows you.

Prayer

Faithful God, thank You that Your work in me did not end when I first believed. Keep shaping my desires, choices, relationships, and habits so that I serve You with my whole heart and soul. Amen.

Day 5: Offer a Foothold

Devotional

Have you ever replayed a conversation and wished you had said something better? We often measure our witness by how polished the words sounded or whether we saw an immediate response. If the moment felt awkward or ordinary, we assume it accomplished very little. The crowd around Jesus was close enough to walk with Him, yet it made Zacchaeus's view more difficult. That remains a warning for the church. Our assumptions, impatience, or fear can block someone who is trying to see Jesus. We can also become a foothold by offering an invitation, listening without rushing, answering one honest question, or speaking simply about the love of Christ. Jesus is the One who seeks and saves. Our role is to help people see Him clearly.

Going Deeper

A Sunday school teacher named Edward Kimball once felt burdened to speak personally with a young shoe salesman named D. L. Moody about Christ. Kimball nearly talked himself out of going, and he later remembered his appeal as weak. Yet that quiet conversation became part of Moody's conversion, and Moody would eventually become one of the most influential evangelists of the nineteenth century. Kimball could not see any of that when he entered the store. The power was not in perfect words, but in God's ability to use faithful witness. God is sovereign, attentive, and able to work beyond what we can observe or remember.

Quote

"We do not have to know what the Holy Spirit will do with that opening. We simply help them see Jesus. What feels small to us may become the place where the Holy Spirit begins a much greater work."

Bible Verse

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." — Luke 19:10 (NLT)

Refection Question

Who in your life may be quietly trying to get a clearer glimpse of Jesus? What small, faithful action could help that person see Him more clearly?

Today's Practice

Offer one foothold today. Send an invitation, begin a sincere conversation, share how Jesus has met you, or make room for someone's honest question.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, keep me from standing in the way of someone who is looking for Jesus. Use my small and imperfect acts of faithfulness to help another person see Christ and respond to His grace. Amen.