

It's Jesus!

7-7-19

How bad do you want to see Jesus? How bad do you want to hear the things of Jesus?



Luke 19:1–4 (ESV)

¹ Jesus 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.

As a lost person, in desperation I prayed to God and HE answered me. This led me to diligently search for God which led me to read the Bible discovering Jesus and accepting HIM as my Savior. Afterwards I went to a church, but left because they denied the Word of God; I went to a second church, but left because they denied the Word of God; I went to a third church, but left because they denied the Word of God; I went to a fourth church and the preacher opened the Bible and taught the Word of God. I declared at that moment before God that I would never that church as long as I lived. That church was RBC and I stayed there until they sent me out to start BCC. Along the way I met people who intimately knew Jesus in a powerful way. Pastor Milliken, Bill Wright, Larry Stockstill, Larry Kreider, and Leon Price. I desired to know everything they knew. Not only did I climb a tree to see Jesus, I climbed a tree to see HIS servants who knew Jesus in a powerful way. **This defines the very core of who I am! I stand on the Bible and the Bible alone.**

Question, how bad do we want to see Jesus? How bad do we want to hear the things of Jesus? Or has the things of this world blinded our eyes to the glory of Jesus that we do not seek HIM any more? Or has the presence of Jesus been replace by all the good things of this world. Or has the glitter of religious entertainment, wonderful programs, spectacular praise music, and feel good platitudes replaced the true Word of God. Have these in fact replaced our heart devotion to Christ? Have these replaced a heart that would climb a tree just to get a glimpse of Jesus?

A minister visiting from China was shown the facilities of a large American church. They asked him what he thought. He said, "It is amazing what you have done without the Holy Spirit." Jesus is not a facility, not a religion; not a moral behavior; not a truth for discussion. Jesus is the presence of God that changes circumstances, whose Word calms the seas, moves mountains, stops storms, makes it rain, keeps it from raining, gives promotions, takes promotions away, destroys armies, raises up kings, brings kings down, raises the dead, heals the sick, and gives us eternal life. Jesus is the one who will return and destroy all things on this earth with the Word of HIS mouth. Therefore when Jesus, the Son of David, the Christ comes by, it seems a small thing for Zacchaeus to climb a tree just to get a glimpse of HIM! But do we have the same passion?

This very deliberate act to see Jesus does not go unnoticed!

Luke 19:5 (ESV)

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.”**

We cannot over look the fact that Jesus was surrounded by hundreds of people and was walking past hundreds more. However, Jesus took note of Zacchaeus who took the effort to climb a tree to see HIM. Jesus honored Zacchaeus and told him to come down because HE was going to stay in his house. Zacchaeus was a well-known sinner! Yet Jesus honored Zacchaeus’ desire to see HIM. This is a lesson even for today. Jesus honors a heart felt, passionate desire that would even climb a tree to get a glimpse of Jesus! We see the same desire demonstrated in the previous event when Jesus healed the blind beggar.

Luke 18:35–42 (ESV)

³⁵ As he drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶ And hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what this meant. ³⁷ **They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.”** ³⁸ And he cried out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ³⁹ And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

⁴⁰ And Jesus stopped and commanded him to be brought to him. And when he came near, he asked him, ⁴¹ **“What do you want me to do for you?”** He said, “Lord, let me recover my sight.” ⁴² And Jesus said to him, **“Recover your sight; your faith has made you well.”**

I love what it says here. (Overhead)

Luke 18:35–42 (ESV)

The blind beggar CRIED OUT, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” When he was told to be quiet, he CRIED OUT ALL THE MORE, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

When we truly seek Jesus, we shouldn’t pay any attention to what anyone else thinks and if they tell us to be quite, we should cry out all the more! Jesus will honor this heart-felt determination. Notice what Jesus tells the blind beggar:

Luke 18:42 (ESV)

Jesus said to him, **“Your faith has made you well.”**

The question for each of us in this dark and godless world, “Will we give the extra effort to climb a tree to get a glimpse of Jesus; will we cry out to Jesus even if the rest of the world tell us to be quite?”

Jesus is looking for people like the Blind Beggar and the sinner Zacchaeus. Look how Jesus closes this section with direct reference to these two men.

Luke 19:10 (ESV)

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

However for this work of Jesus to be complete, HE must go to the cross. Therefore Jesus continues HIS final journey to Jerusalem where HE will be crucified to pay the penalty for the blind beggar's sins, Zacchaeus' sins, and our sins.

Jesus knows that only by the cross and resurrection would the blind beggar, Zacchaeus, and all mankind be able to receive the free gift of eternal life. There is only one question for us to answer this morning, "What is more important than Jesus?"

Look at what Jesus did for us!

Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Prophetic Team

Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future.