

w/b 9<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**THEME: Zacchaeus: A Transformed Witness - LIFE APPLICATION**

## **LAUNCH**

Where do people in our culture turn for help, change or transformation other than Christianity? What is the appeal of these other paths?

## **INTRODUCTION**

Jesus is travelling through southern Palestine on his way to Jerusalem. This trip will culminate in his death and resurrection. As he journeys, Jesus makes the most of every opportunity to do ministry. Jericho, a rich agricultural town and popular resort for royalty and priests, was in Jesus' path. Zacchaeus was one of the last people Jesus met before his death. Their encounter illustrates how Jesus can transform a person from the inside out.

## **DISCOVERY**

For background, read or skim **Luke 18:31-43**.

What is happening as Jesus approaches Jericho?

Read **Luke 19:1-10**. In the first six verses (19:1-6), what are some things we learn about Zacchaeus?

What kind of reputation might a chief tax collector develop in a town like this? *(Note: "The Romans farmed out the task of collecting the taxes in any particular area to the highest bidder. The man did not receive any salary for his work but collected as much money as he could so that he would have a handsome rake-off after paying the government the appointed sum" [The New Bible Commentary: Revised]. Tax collectors were despised not only by the Romans, but also by their own people.)*

## **UNDERSTANDING**

What strikes you about the initial meeting between Jesus and Zacchaeus?

What was the reaction of the crowd as they see this relationship develop between Zacchaeus and Jesus (verse 7)?

We can easily have 'mental blocks' towards people that prevent us from even making the initial effort to speak to them. What are some of your 'mental blocks' or prejudices that prevent you from building relationships.

Jesus is a master at building relationships and communicating with people.

What does Jesus do to build a friendship with Zacchaeus? What lessons can we learn for ourselves?

What seems to be going on inside Zacchaeus by the end of this encounter (verses 8-10)? How is he transformed by meeting Jesus?

Zacchaeus expected challenge but was offered relationship. This led him to change his behaviour in a way direct challenge would never have achieved.

How does relationship work where challenge fails?

What lessons can we learn from this in creating a Come as you are culture?

What might be some of the far reaching effects of this transformation on both Zacchaeus and the other people in his community?

## **APPLICATION**

Pray for an opportunity to form a friendship with someone outside of your immediate comfort zone.

*(adapted from an excellent IVP online study)*