

Who Is Suitable for the Kingdom?

Luke 19:1-10 - *Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. 5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. 7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'" 8 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." 9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."* NIV

The world needs a long-suffering church with an inclusive message!

1. God doesn't care about class, status or position. He cares about the person!

Luke 19:3 - *He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd.*

2. God values the inside of a man, not what we see on the outside.

Luke 19:5 - *"I must stay at your house today..."*

Luke 19:8 - *"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."*

Two truths remain:

- 1) Salvation is for those who are often forgotten, and more often than not challenge our social norms.
- 2) The mission of Jesus is inclusion in the family of God.