

St. James Episcopal Church  
A Moment for Kids—of All Ages!  
OCTOBER 30, 2016—THE 24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
JESUS AND ZACCHAEUS



Jesus was walking through in Jericho. Zacchaeus; was the chief tax-collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was but he couldn't because there was a big crowd and he wasn't very tall. So he climbed a s tree to see him. Jesus looked up and said, 'Zacchaeus come down; for I must stay at your house today.' So Zacchaeus hurried down and was happy to welcome Jesus. The people who were there began to grumble and said, "Jesus is going to that sinner's house.' Zacchaeus said to Jesus 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have cheated anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'

Luke 19:1-10

## BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME: THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS

There are three main “players” in this story: Jesus, Zacchaeus and the crowd. Zacchaeus is rich and the chief tax collector. So, without knowing anything else about him, people will assume that he is a sinner—that he cheated people out of money. Jesus calls Zacchaeus by name, and invited himself into Zacchaeus’ home. These two simple acts changed Zacchaeus completely. He told Jesus that he was going to change, repent, and live his life differently. Jesus called Zacchaeus, said I want to be with you, and that was enough.

The crowd plays an interesting part in this story. They assume that Zacchaeus is a sinner, and call him so. They are angry at Jesus for having anything to do with him. They don’t want Jesus to take his time or attention on someone that feel to be unworthy. They might not feel that Zacchaeus can change. In this story Jesus shows us that he knows that people CAN change. Zacchaeus changed. You can change, I can change. People all around us can change. Jesus has faith in us!

### Jesus and Zacchaeus—Luke 19:1-10

#### Choose the correct words.

Jesus went to the town of [**Batavia/Jericho/Rochester**]. He met a man named named [**Zacchaeus/Noah/Sue**], who as a [**butcher/soldier/tax collector**]. Zacchaeus was very [**rich/poor**]. He was also very [**shy/bossy/short**], and the crowd around Jesus was so [**packed/thin/quiet**] that Zacchaeus couldn’t see Jesus. So Zacchaeus climbed up into a [**bulldozer, tree, houseplant**] so that he could see better. Jesus told him to [**come down/do jumping jacks/go away.**] Zacchaeus had been very dishonest, but he told Jesus that he would [**stay the same/change and do better**]. This made Jesus very [**glad/sad/tired**].

#### ***Dinner Table Conversation:***

*How have you changed? — Think about things you can do now, that you couldn’t do a few years ago.*

*Do you like something now that you didn’t like before?*

*Why do you think change is important?*

*If Zacchaeus cheated people, and he wanted to be a better person, how did he change?*

This insert is prepared by Mother Bonnie. If you have any questions about it, please let me know. It is posted weekly on [www.stjamesbatavia.org](http://www.stjamesbatavia.org)