November 3, 2019

Scripture

Luke 19:1-10
At that time, Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town.
Now a man there named Zacchaeus,
who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man,
was seeking to see who Jesus was;
buts he could not see him because of the crowd,
for he was short in stature.
So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus,
who was about to pass that way.
When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said,
"Zacchaeus, come down quickly,
for today I must stay at your house."
And he came down quickly and received him with joy.
When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying,
"He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner."
But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord,
"Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor,
and if I have extorted anything from anyone
I shall repay it four times over."
And Jesus said to him,
"Today salvation has come to this house
because this man too is a descendant of Abraham.
For the Son of Man has come to seek
and to save what was lost."

Our Scripture Reflection
Poor Zacchaeus had two huge strikes against him: First, he was not only a tax collector but he was a CHIEF tax collector and wealthy because of that. Tax collectors were bitterly despised Jews who farmed out taxes from their fellow Jews. A large portion of the money was turned over to the Romans to support their army which held the Jewish nation in captivity. They were looked upon as the worst of traitors, and Zacchaeus is the leader of all the traitors! Second, He was a very short man struggling to get a glimpse of Jesus in a huge, tall crowd. His situation seemed hopeless, that is, until Jesus stopped in His tracks, saw Zacchaeus and told him that He would stay at the despised man’s house. Needless to say, Jesus’ words did not sit well with the crowds but Jesus would not be deterred. His desire was to bring salvation to the least worthy of candidates. Do you see a message here for yourself???

Food for your Journey

Bill Hybel’s book, Just Walk Across the Room (Zondervan, 2006) is a wonderful resource for today’s Gospel:
The blurb on the back cover reads: “What if you knew that by simply crossing the room and saying hello to someone, you could change that person’s life forever? Just a few steps to make an eternal difference. It has nothing to do with methods and everything to do with taking a genuine interest in another human being. All you need is a heart that’s in tune with the Holy Spirit and a willingness to venture out of your ‘Circle of Comfort’ and into another person’s life.” Or, it could read, “What if you knew that by simply crossing the road to talk to that person in a ‘tree’…?”

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You always loved and cared for those who were despised and who were considered outcasts. Your heart was filled with compassion. Lord, I pray for the Grace to grow in compassion for the least in Your Kingdom. May I love them as You love them. Amen