November 19, 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; but 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 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

The tax collector, Zacchaeus, had two huge strikes against him:
Tax collectors were bitterly despised because they farmed out tax money that helped fund the Roman Army which held the people in captivity. They were looked upon as traitors. Zacchaeus was a “Chief” tax collector.

He was short and standing in a crowd of people much taller than himself.

All he had wanted to do was to just get a glimpse of Jesus. And of all the people who got Jesus’ attention that day, it was ONLY the despised short man. My friends, there’s a beautiful message here for you and me….

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**Food for your Journey**

Jesus never gave people "the answers they wanted him to," observes author Keith Miller. "He never said, 'I will come and give you the answers you want until the end of the age.' He said, 'I will come and I will be with you.'

"What we really want is presence. And if we're present to each other, God is in us, then God will be with them."

- The Door, July/August 1998, 21.

Jesus didn't give Zacchaeus answers. Instead, he gave him a relationship when he said, "I must stay at your house today."

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**A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear Jesus, When I think about my past life, and my present life as well, I realize there are many things I have done against You. You have been only loving towards me. I understand how Zacchaeus must have felt 2019 years ago. I come before You today to ask for forgiveness. Please forgive me and heal me and give me the Grace to get right with You and others. Amen