

An Encounter of Life

April 15, 2018

Scripture:

He entered Jericho and was passing through. ² And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. ⁴ So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. ⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. ⁷ And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." ⁸ And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold." ⁹ And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (Lk. 19:1-10 ESV)

1) Encountering life in our _____.

(Phil. 1:6; Luke 18:18-26)

a) Limitations are an _____.

b) Limitations are _____ for us.

2) Encountering life in our _____.

(Rom. 12:2; John 14:16-17)

a) Striving to meet the _____
standards.

b) Striving to meet _____
standards.

3) Encountering life in our _____.

(Gal. 2:20; Rom. 10:9-10)

a) Experiencing Christ in the
_____.

b) Experiencing Christ in the
_____.

Remember:

The salvation of the righteous is from the LORD; he is their stronghold in the time of trouble. (Ps. 37:39 ESV)

Reflect:

Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the foundation upon which sincere and meaningful repentance must be built. If we truly seek to put away sin, we must first look to Him who is the Author of our salvation.

- Ezra Taft Benson

Seek:

- 1) In our passage we find Jesus affirming the salvation of Zacchaeus with the powerful statement, "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." (v. 10)
Reexamine the passage and list what actions Zacchaeus deemed necessary in establishing his new-found relationship with the Messiah.

Share:

- 1) In accepting Jesus Christ as our Savior, we all have experienced a Zacchaeus moment in our relationship with the Lord. Take a few minutes and try to recall what that moment looked like. Write it down and be prepared to share it with the group.

Serve:

- 1) Has salvation come to your house? What actions do you need to take, apart from the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study and worship to bring the truth to others so that they might also come to know the One who came “to seek and save the lost”?

Pray:

For Zacchaeus, his salvation was represented in his willingness to give back to others from his wealth. Although our reception of the Lord might take on a different response today, take time during your prayers this week to ask Him what your Zacchaeus response will be.