



Grace Envisioned



Introduction: Jesus had a “mission statement” and understanding of why He came. He said: “*For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.*”

Luke 19:10 Just before He said this, Jesus had met a man named Zacchaeus.

(Share story). Zacchaeus climbs a Sycamore tree. In the Middle East it produces a fig-like fruit. The unripe fruit was inedible due to its bitter taste and if left alone to ripen it would remain inedible due to the presence of wasps and other insects growing inside. The solution was to pierce or wound the fruit. The fruit of the sycamore was pierced for two reasons: 1) to ripen the figs in as short of time as possible and 2) to stop the growth of any insects in the fruit. Jesus is walking to Jerusalem and He sees Zacchaeus in a sycamore tree, most likely sitting next to sycamore figs—bitter fruit that is left alone to its own ruin. Jesus, knowing all about sycamore figs, chose to pause His trip to Jerusalem in order to pierce Zacchaeus’ heart with an act of His amazing grace so that Zacchaeus is now a blessing to others. **Zacchaeus gained salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Becoming a spiritual son of Abraham. (Galatians 3:7)**

Text: Proverbs 29:18

Outline:

I. Grace Family Fellowship – Why?

- A. Grace** – Receiving what we don’t deserve from God: His forgiveness, love, acceptance and mercy.
- B. Family** – We are more than a church, we are family. We all desire to grow in this Grace Journey together!
- C. Fellowship** – We are a group of believers who believe you can come to this church and find a safe place to worship God freely and biblically with other’s who are human and need to grow spiritually just like you.

Jesus did not see Zacchaeus as a problem that kept Him from His mission; Jesus saw Zacchaeus as part of His mission to “*seek and to save the lost*” (Luke 19:10).

II. We Value People – Who?

- A. Every Generation** – Every age, effected by changing culture, needs to know the Lord; and deserves the chance for God to capture their heart. God CAN SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE!
- B. Every Color** “Red and Yellow black and white, they are precious in His sight.”
 - We don’t need to walk on egg shells with each other, we don’t need to judge each other, we don’t need to be paranoid around each other... we just need to LOVE each other as Christ loved us!

III. Vision Activated: - How?

- A. Reach** – Reach out to everyone we can with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- B. Teach** – Teach people who come to Christ about His Kingdom using the Word of God. The Bible.
- C. Connect** – Connect people of every generation with other believers and build community, accountability, .
- D. Release** – Release Christians to serve and do the work of the Lord. Deputize them to be the ambassadors of Christ, God has called them to be. Help people find their giftings and spiritual skill sets, and encourage them and let them thrive by using them for the Lord's glory!