



# Service Devotional Guide

## July 5, 2020

*Start by praying and asking God to meet you in this passage, the sermon, and the reading and prayers. Then read the following passage several times.*

### **Luke 19: 1-10**

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup> A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. <sup>3</sup> He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

<sup>5</sup> When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.' <sup>6</sup> So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

<sup>7</sup> All the people saw this and began to mutter, 'He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.'

<sup>8</sup> But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.'

<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.'

### **Questions to Ponder**

1. This brief story is only found in the Gospel of Luke. Why do you think Luke included it when the other Gospel writers didn't? How does it fit with other stories in Luke?

2. How does Biblical kindness differ from (or how is it the same as) worldly kindness? Would you agree with the three points about Biblical kindness from the sermon? Would you add or subtract anything about Biblical kindness?
3. How have you personally been affected by kindness, or by a lack of kindness? Has there been a time when you have experienced kindness as strong? Powerful? Undeserved?
4. Psalm 141: 5 says “Let a righteous man strike me – that is a kindness; let him rebuke me – that is oil on my head.” How is this kindness?
5. If you were to imagine yourself into the story of Zacchaeus, where would you find yourself? Where do your sympathies naturally lie? Where might God be calling you to grow?

## **Closing Prayer**

Loving God, open our ears to hear your word and draw us closer to you, that the whole world may be one with you as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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