

# BREAKTHROUGH

S T O R I E S O F R A D I C A L C H A N G E

"Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." Luke 19:5

## Announcement

July 26 (Sun) HOME Worship Service

Aug 2 (Sun) HOME Worship Service \_ Holy Communion

July 26 (Sun) Jane Mihalecz's Birthday

July 29 (Wed) Nick Cavoli's Birthday

July 30 (Thu) Kelly Suggs' Birthday

August 1 (Sat) Joohee Kim's Birthday

## Opening Hymn (UMH 158)

Come, Christians, Join to Sing ([https://youtu.be/Zh\\_KVJSYOwQ](https://youtu.be/Zh_KVJSYOwQ))

## Call to Worship

Though there is strife in the world.  
Yet will we seek God.

When our hearts grow heavy and the burdens are overbearing,  
We will turn to the Lord.

God is with us in all things.

We can place our trust in the God of love and hope. AMEN.

## Hymn of Praise (UMH 462)

Tis' So Sweet to Trust in Jesus ([https://youtu.be/iJnxUg\\_0SI](https://youtu.be/iJnxUg_0SI))

## Morning Prayer

God of surprising love, we have gathered here this day, coming from different experiences, to hear your word of healing love. We offer our prayers for our friends and family members who are in need of your healing and forgiveness. Yet we withhold ourselves from you. We have a hard time imagining that you would find much of real worth in each of us. We think of ourselves as insignificant in your kingdom. But you have poured your love upon us. You have given us hope and compassion; you have called us the treasure that is meant to enrich the world. Help us be those people who are so confident in your presence, that we dare to step out in faith, to work for you in places of need and strife; to witness to your love in all that we do, proclaiming your presence with our mouths and our actions. Give us your guidance, your forgiveness, and courage to be at work in your kingdom. Amen.

## Psalter Reading

Psalms 25 \_ UMH 756

## Scripture Reading

Luke 19:1-10

## Message

"Breakthrough \_ In Our Brokenness"

Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/thegroveschurches/>)

Website (<https://groveschurches.org/>)

## Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed \_ UMH 881

## Offering

\*Offering (CHECK) by mail to:

UGUMC \_ Krissi Reed (50 Burt St, Bridgeton NJ 08302)

WGUMC \_ Cheryl Fox (1940 Coles Mill Rd, Franklinville NJ 08322)

\*\*Offering by ONLINE:

<http://www.gnjumc.org/onlinegiving> Or <http://groveschurches.org>

UGUMC Church number: 9068 (Norma)

WGUMC Church number: 9071 (Pittsgrove)

## Closing Song

Once Again (<https://youtu.be/ebFji3n0cCA>)

## Benediction

[PRAYER REQUEST] \_ Let us pray together.

1. For all the congregation of Groves Ministries.

Lord, surround us with Your divine hedge of protection. Encompass us round about with Your strength and Your might. May You shelter us, that those who love Your name may exult in You.

2. For our nation and the world.

Lord, we pray for our nation and the whole world during the pandemic. Grant Your peace, Your comfort, and Your healing. Be with us, Lord. Amen.

# "IN OUR BROKENNESS"

"Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." Luke 19:5

**BREAKTHROUGH**

Being short is one thing. Being short, mean, and hated by all is another thing entirely! If you grew up in church, you more than likely grew up singing about Zacchaeus and how he was "a wee little man." However, the song doesn't quite tell the whole tale.

Publicans were tax collectors and were hated by everyone. The Romans occupied the land of Israel and had a system of taxation in which franchises were sold to Romans who would collect the local taxes. They set up tolls at every road, seaport, and gate, and all who passed were taxed. Where did the Romans get these men to collect? Often, Jews who wanted favor with the Roman government were employed to do the actual collecting. Zacchaeus was the chief tax collector in Jericho (Luke 19:1). He was a fellow Jew but collected taxes for the Roman government from his fellow countrymen and women. He was not only considered a traitor, but publicans were known to overcharge what Rome required so they could pocket the remaining balance.

He was considered a great traitor to all Jews who sacrificed his community for his own advancement and increase in wealth.

With this context in mind, we can easily see why it would have been a big deal for Jesus to go to Zacchaeus's house (Luke 19:7). People didn't even want to talk with him, and Jesus is going into his home? Once again, Jesus breaks through the social norms and prejudices of his day and demonstrates that anyone's life can be transformed. Zacchaeus was a changed man. He immediately started to give people back four times more than what he had stolen from them, and he gave to people in need (v. 8). Four times! Only the gospel can produce that level of generosity.

What does your life look like today? Is it wrapped up in lies, deceit, secrets, and dishonesty? There is hope for you! Your sins are no match for the love and power of Christ. Your breakthrough can happen today if you're willing to admit your guilt and hand it over to one, the only one, who died for all of it. In return, he'll give you grace, mercy, love, forgiveness, satisfaction, and eternal life.

You may remember the '90s sitcom Full House, and one of its beloved characters, Jesse Katsopolis. He was known not only for his great hair but for his catchphrase, "Have mercy!" When you cry out to God for mercy, the stories from this series provide evidence that God does not waste his mercy! He picks us up, cleans us off, mends our brokenness, and shows the world what he can do with failed people. Will you allow a breakthrough in your life today?

## **\*\*Some questions to think about:**

What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?

How did the gospel transform Zacchaeus's life?

In what ways has Jesus transformed us?