



Friends of Jesus and Mary

XXXI Sunday in Ordinary Time

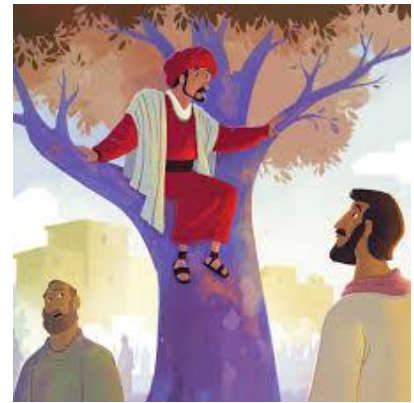
Wisdom 11, 22-12, 2; Psalm 144; 2 Thesalonians 1, 11-2, 2; Luke 19, 1-10

Zacchaeus Seeks to See Jesus

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 all 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."

Reflection

Zacchaeus was Jewish and the chief of the tax collectors. Why was he hated by his people? (The tax collectors collected taxes for the Romans, often overcharging to keep some for themselves and so were hated. Zacchaeus was seen as a traitor for helping the Romans at the expense of his people.) **Why did Zacchaeus try to see Jesus?** (He had heard about His miracles and that He was a man of God. His heart felt His call. He needed to fill the emptiness that his stolen riches left him.) **Why did he climb the tree?** (He was short in stature and could not see Jesus walk by. His small size also symbolizes his social status because of his sins. He had to work harder to see Jesus than others.) **How did Zacchaeus feel when Jesus called out to him?** (Happy and grateful) **What did he promise Jesus?** (To give half of his riches to the poor and to pay back 4 times the amount he had stolen to people.) **When he opened his heart to Jesus, he was filled with Jesus' love, repented of his sins, and was filled with love for others, wanting to make up for the damage he had done them. HE WAS SAVED! How did the others react when they saw Jesus go to his house?** (They complained that Jesus visited the home of sinners.) **Jesus explains to them that the Son of Man came to seek out and save what has been lost. What distances us from Jesus? Share. How can we seek Him? Share.**



Activity

On the following page color and write the words said in the gospel. On the last page, write on the left side of the tree, things that distance us from Jesus; write on the right side of the tree, things that bring us closer to Jesus. Pray the prayer together.

Prayer

Jesus, forgive me for separating myself from you. I promise to change and to avoid things that cause me to sin. Help me to pray more, forgive more, and love more. I pray for the conversion of sinners. Amen.

Song: Zacchaeus was a Wee Little Man, trikerbabe196, <https://youtu.be/bkd-QFD7vMA> (3-7 yrs.)

Jesus Saves, Answer VBS, <https://youtu.be/pilKEi9Ekho> (8+ yrs.)

PPT: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1ZgNiz3n4HadwU903pwYASHkUJf99CUW/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=115268475267556305384&rtpof=true&sd=true>



Jesus and Zacchaeus

Write the dialogue as related by the Evangelist St. Luke 19:1-10.

"Jesús entro en Jericó y atravesaba la ciudad. Allí vivia un hombre muy rico llamado Zaqueo, e era jefe de los publicanos. El queria ver quien era Jesús, pero no podía a causa de la multitud, porque era de baja estatura. Entonces se adelanto y subió a un sicomoro para poder verlo, porque iba a pasar por allí. Al llegar a ese lugar, Jesús miro hacia arriba y le dijo:



And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying,

But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord,



Jesus said to him:



Did you know...?

A sycamore is a fig tree of Egyptian origin. This tree is particular because its trunk divides close to the ground permitting Zacchaeus, chief of the publicans (collector of taxes), of short stature, to easily climb it to see Jesus. tree is particular because



Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María



Florida Center for Peace

Write what distances
us from Jesus:

Write what brings us
closer to Jesus:

**Jesus, forgive me for separating
myself from you. I promise to
change and to avoid things that
cause me to sin. Help me to pray
more, forgive more, and love more. I
pray for the conversion of sinners.
Amen.**