

What Do You Seek?

Take-Home: The Guest (Zacchaeus)

A standalone deep-dive session

What We Found

The chief tax collector of Jericho, a rich man and, by every signal in the story, a despised one, climbed a tree like a child because he wanted to see who Jesus was, and he was too small to see over the crowd. Then Jesus stopped, knew his name with no introduction, and did not request hospitality but announced it: "I must stay at your house today." The town's villain was honored publicly before he had reformed anything, and all who saw it murmured on cue. What followed reversed everything shame had failed to do for decades: he received Jesus joyfully, and the joy produced justice: half his goods to the poor, and fourfold restitution to anyone he had defrauded, the penalty the Law set for a stolen sheep in Exodus 22:1, self-imposed. Grace was completely free, and what it drew out of him he pledged on the spot, gladly. The verdict named the day and the mission: today salvation has come to this house, for the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost. The seeker in the tree had been the sought all along.

Voices Worth Keeping

St. Cyril of Alexandria *Commentary on Luke (summary)*

Christ, who sees the hidden movement of every heart, met a flicker of undignified curiosity with a self-invitation.

St. Augustine *Sermons (summary)*

The man willing to look foolish to see Christ is the man Christ stops for.

St. Bede the Venerable *Commentary on Luke (summary)*

The one the town would not make room for is given the best seat, and the house nobody respectable would enter becomes the address where salvation is announced by name.

Live It This Week

1. Take one undignified step of curiosity: ask the question you have felt silly asking.
2. Treat one written-off person as callable by name, in one small concrete way.
3. Read Luke 19:1-10 once more, alone, from inside the tree.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

"For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost." **Luke 19:10**

If You Want More

This session stands alone. It pairs powerfully with the deep-dive on the rich young man. **Catechism references:** CCC 1443, 2412, 545.