



## WEEK 3 DEVOTIONAL

---

**MARCH 13, 2023**

---

*Today, is the third week of Lent.*

*Welcome to the table.*

*Take a moment to pause and breath in and out slowly. Intentionally.  
Rest in knowing that God welcomes you to His grace filled table.*

†

We all long to be accepted. To be included.  
Especially, by those who we consider famous  
or those we greatly respect.  
Now imagine that person is Jesus.  
Jesus sees YOU and calls YOU by name.  
How does that affect your life?

†

Today we join Jesus as He invites Himself to the table of Zacchaeus.  
Last week, we reflected on Matthew, a tax collector. Maybe he was  
Matthew's boss, as Zacchaeus was a Chief Tax Collector.

Keeping in mind what we shared last week, if the people viewed  
Matthew as a traitor to his people and despised his unscrupulous  
financial gain, imagine how they felt towards Zacchaeus being a Chief  
Tax Collector—someone we are told who was very wealthy, no doubt  
by dubious means.

As you hear this story, enter in with your imagination as if you are Zacchaeus. See the crowds. Smell the sun-drenched road of people. As you climb, feel the bark of the tree as it scrapes your skin and snags your clothes.

As Zacchaeus, discern what is prompting your feelings and causing your heart to skip a beat. Afterward, we will continue to reflect with our imagination as we process together what was happening in us on this day.

†

**Jesus entered Jericho and made His way through the town. There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. So, he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.**

**When Jesus came by, He looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" He said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today."**

**Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled.**

**Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"**

**Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham."**

**Luke 19:1–9, NLT**

†

As we continue our journey, in this Scripture, stay as Zacchaeus on the scene and respond to the reflection questions accordingly. Answering these questions may reveal this table moment in the everyday flow of your life.

†

Zacchaeus, when you heard Jesus was coming into town what was your initial reaction? Were you excited? Ashamed? Anxious? Why?

†

What compelled you to climb that tree? I mean you are a rich person. Rich people don't climb trees. Besides, I hear you are already sensitive about your height. Didn't that simply bring attention to you and put you in a vulnerable place? Why would you do that?

†

How does Jesus know your name, Zacchaeus?

By the look on your face and how you had to catch yourself from falling out of that tree, you were surprised as anyone would be when Jesus not only noticed you but called out your name.

And if Jesus did that then He probably knows you are a traitor to our people as a Chief Tax Collector. Why wasn't Jesus worried about associating with your kind? Did He say anything?

†

It seemed as if you were so focused on Jesus that you didn't hear the people all around you making their judgy side comments. How did you not let that bother you?

†

And wow. I have never seen a rich person like you so freely part ways with their wealth. I mean half to the poor and four times to all those you cheated. That's even more than what the Law requires for cheaters like you. No offense. What will you have left?

What compelled you to make amends in such a dramatic fashion? Do you regret that decision?

†

I have to be honest, the most startling thing was when Jesus pronounced salvation had come to you and then declaring you are not a traitor but a true son of Abraham. Did I notice emotion welling up in your eyes or was that really dust as you said. How did you keep it together in that moment?

†

In these final moments today, hear Jesus calling you by name and inviting Himself to sit with you at your table

Talk to Jesus about what it means to you that He knows your name and desires to be with you, here and now and through Him salvation comes to your house!

†

Come!

Come to the table!

Jesus is expecting you!