



One Mission

Session One

Text: Luke 19.10; 15.1-7;9-10;24.

Summary: Jesus' life is full of experiences where he helped people. He emphasized taking care of others and taught that we should love others as the ultimate fulfillment of the Law. But in one verse, Luke 19.10, he clearly gave us his mission and primary reason for joining us on earth, **to seek and to save the lost**. Everything that Jesus did was fulfilling this one purpose. As you read the gospels and observe Jesus encounters with others, pay attention. His ministry was varied but his mission was singular.

CONNECT

Have you ever lost something that was valuable or meaningful?

What was it? Did you find it? Describe your emotions when you were searching.

Transition: *in Luke 15 we read the lost parables. The parable of the lost sheep, lost coin and lost son. These parables set up Jesus' conversation with his critics after he spent time with the tax collector Zacchaeus.*

ENGAGE

Some say that we are known by the people we hang out with. It's probably an accurate assessment. For Jesus it was not going to be good to be seen with someone who was a tax collector. That didn't stop Jesus. He was developing a reputation of one who spent time with sinners. That would be OK, Jesus was on a mission. His mission was to seek and to save one's like this.

Teaching points:

1. Tax collectors during the time of Jesus didn't have many friends. They were despised and probably stayed out of the public eye as a matter of routine. Zacchaeus was an important tax collector. His business card read, Chief Tax Collector. That means he was over a team who collected taxes. He was the lead in his group in the organization.
2. Zacchaeus was wealthy. It was well known that those in his profession were people of wealth. It was believed because of his profession but it would have also been evident in his lifestyle—where he lived, how he dressed, the car he drove—well you get the picture. In other words, he was identified and assumed wealthy in many of the same ways that we might assume that in our day.
3. His wealth was partially acquired by cheating others on what they owed for their taxes. It was common practice to collect what was owed plus a little extra on top for yourself.

4. Jesus was intimidated by his reputation or his wealth. In fact, he invited himself to Zacchaeus house. Being in someone's home was the height of hospitality. Jesus was welcome and at home. So much so that Zacchaeus begins to self-evaluate. He knew who he was but he had learned to live with himself and his reputation. In a profound moment he confesses and repents. Vowing to make things right with himself and others.
5. Jesus affirms Zacchaeus and then declares his mission. **The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.**

Transition: *our goal as a disciple of Jesus is to share in his mission. It's our mission. Now we determine how we will live in obedience and search for those who are far from God.*

RESPOND

Create a mental map of your daily weekday routine. This is your daily rhythm.

Where do you go?

Who do you see on a regular basis?

Who do you know by name? What are their names?

What do you know about their spiritual condition?