

looking beyond the surface

LUKE 19:1-10

THE QUESTION

What does Jesus want us to understand about how we see and treat others?

THE POINT

Jesus sees and pursues us, giving us great worth regardless of how others perceive us.

03

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

PEOPLE



No one has the right to define who we are—our true identity comes only from God.



LET'S look

LUKE 19:1-10

¹ He entered Jericho and was passing through. ² There was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but he was not able because of the crowd, since he was a short man. ⁴ So running ahead, he climbed up a sycamore tree to see Jesus, since he was about to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down because today it is necessary for me to stay at your house.”

⁶ So he quickly came down and welcomed him joyfully. ⁷ All who saw it began to complain, “He’s gone to stay with a sinful man.”

⁸ But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, I’ll give half of my possessions to the poor, Lord. And if I have extorted anything from anyone, I’ll pay back four times as much.”

⁹ “Today salvation has come to this house,” Jesus told him, “because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.”



DID YOU KNOW?

It takes just seven seconds for your brain to form an opinion about someone.¹

➤ MEMORY VERSE

Luke 19:10

LET'S go

Bible Meets Life

THE QUESTION ➤ What does Jesus want us to understand about how we see and treat others?

THE POINT ➤ Jesus sees and pursues us, giving us great worth regardless of how others perceive us.

No one has the right to define who we are—our true identity comes only from God. In today's session, we learned just how much Jesus values us, regardless of what others may think. This understanding is crucial in a society often shaped by false perceptions and opinions. Our grasp of who Jesus says we are influences how we see and treat other people. The Greatest Commandment (Matt. 22:37-38) reinforces this by stating that our wholehearted love for God leads us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

MOVING forward

Take a moment this week to reflect on how you perceive others. When you first meet someone, do you focus on what you consider to be his or her “flaws”? For example, if you encountered Zacchaeus, would you view him as a corrupt tax collector or as an image bearer of God? Remember, the way we see others says a lot about how we view God.

MAIN TAKEAWAY

What is one thing you took away from today's session?

Think about this:
How God sees you—as a loved child of God—is what matters most. People do not define your worth.

DAY 01

Read

Take some time and check out **Matthew 22:37-38**.

Today's passage, known as the Greatest Commandment, teaches us first to love God with all that we are, and verse 39 follows by directing us to love our neighbor as ourselves. The people who were complaining about Jesus visiting with Zacchaeus missed this completely. As a reminder, people do not define who we are or our worth—this comes only from God. Your best days and your most challenging days do not change how God sees you.

In Luke 19:1-10, we read the story of Jesus interacting with Zacchaeus. People saw Zacchaeus as “less than” and not worthy of respect. Yet, Jesus saw something different—an image-bearer of God. We are called to love our neighbors, no matter how we (or others) may see them. Criticizing, judging, and making fun of people can be natural for us. However, Jesus calls His children to a different standard—to love others well. Remember, loving our neighbors well begins with loving God with all that we are.

Reflect



What does loving God have to do with loving our neighbor?



Why should we not let the way society sees people change how we view or treat others?

Respond

Lord, help me this week to live confidently, knowing that I'm loved by You.

DAY 02

Read

Take some time and check out **Luke 10:25-37**.

Jesus often spoke in parables, which served as a way to help people understand the kingdom of God. These stories still teach us today. In Luke 10:25-37, Jesus used the parable of the good Samaritan to show religious leaders who was their true neighbor. He used an extreme example of a Samaritan helping a Jew, which was unheard of culturally. Yet, Jesus did not see “Jew” or “Samaritan.” He sees everyone as an image-bearer of God.

So, who is our neighbor? It’s anyone, really. It’s that simple, yet also that difficult. When we like or get along with someone, we tend to find that person easier to love. But when we interact with someone we don’t like or who rubs us the wrong way, then it can be challenging to love that person well.

Jesus’s love knows no bounds. Our love for our neighbors should also know no bounds. This is the gospel.

Reflect



Why can people sometimes be difficult to love? What would Jesus have us do?



How is the love of Jesus different from any other kind of love?

Respond

Lord, help me this week to show one act of kindness to someone I tend to struggle to love well.

DAY 03

Read

Take some time and check out **Psalm 145:8-9**.

Compassion is a word that may excite you, or it may frustrate you if you aren't as people oriented. But what does Scripture teach us about the compassion of God? Psalm 145:8-9 can help. It describes the Lord as gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and great in faithful love. Then, it takes it a step further and teaches us that He is good to everyone. Notice something significant about this verse: The Lord's compassion is not conditional. When Jesus interacted with Zacchaeus, He didn't see him for the many times that he had cheated people out of their money. Jesus had love and compassion for Zacchaeus because He knew he was a sinner in need of grace.

Jesus sees us the same way, and He has compassion on us. Therefore, we are called to extend compassion and grace to others. Think about it this way: Your compassion could be the beginning of someone seeing Jesus.

Reflect



How can compassion lead others to experience Jesus?



What does compassion teach us about the gospel?



Respond

Lord, help me this week to show compassion to my family.

DAY 04

Read

Take some time and check out **Ephesians 4:22-24**.

The gospel changed Zacchaeus. He went from a chief tax collector who cheated people out of money to a man who repaid them four times what he owed them. This is the power of the gospel and how it can transform a life.

Ephesians 4:22-24 takes us into this change process. It speaks to our former way of life, which is corrupted by deceitful desires. This is replaced and renewed by our new self, the one created in God's likeness, the path of righteousness and purity. We are all born with a sinful nature, but this nature doesn't need to be the master of our lives. Since Jesus went to the cross on our behalf, we can have new life in Him. This changes our lives for all eternity and also transforms the way we live in the here and now. If you are a believer, seek to reflect your transformed life to others this week. If you are not a believer, know Jesus can change you.

Reflect



What does a life transformed by Christ look like?



How should we deal with our deceitful desires that do not align with God's Word?

Respond

Lord, help me this week to fight the urge to lean into my deceitful desires and pursue Christ—the better way.

DAY 05

Read

Take some time and check out **Ephesians 5:1-2**.

When we read the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus, it becomes clear that we are supposed to see people the way Jesus sees us. Ephesians 5:1-2 teaches us to follow God's way and walk in love. Go back and read Luke 19:1-10 and circle the immediate changes you see in Zacchaeus's life after being with Jesus. This is what following Jesus is all about.

When we are with Jesus, He makes us more like Him—redirecting our steps, convicting us of sin, and giving us a better way to live. This does not mean no struggles or difficulties will come. Notice that the people did not have a positive reaction to Zacchaeus's changed life, but it did not affect the way he lived out his new identity in Christ. May the same be said of us.

Reflect



What does it mean to be an imitator of Christ? How is this revealed in your life?



How is the life Jesus offers different from what we see in the world?



Respond

Lord, help me this week to imitate Christ well.