



Sermon Guide: “...Meanwhile...”

Scripture: Luke 19:1-10 (NLT) | Key Verse: Luke 19:10

I. The Encounter at the Tree

The story of Zacchaeus isn't just a Sunday School lesson; it is a breakdown of Jesus' intentionality. Zacchaeus was a man of high status (Chief Tax Collector) but low social standing, seeking a glimpse of something more.

- **The Obstacle:** His physical height and the crowd's barrier.
- **The Effort:** Climbing the sycamore-fig tree to get above the noise.
- **The Divine Interruption:** Jesus didn't just see a "sinner" in a tree; He saw a son of Abraham and called him by name.

II. Two Conflicting Responses

The text highlights a sharp contrast between how the "religious public" reacted and how the Savior reacted.

1. The People's Response: Grumbling The crowd was displeased because Jesus "associated" with a notorious sinner. This reaction suggests:

- **Exclusivity:** A desire to keep Jesus within their own social circle.
- **Comfort:** Zacchaeus threatened the existing social and spiritual ecosystem.
- **Conviction:** Zac's radical generosity likely exposed the lack of generosity in the hearts of those complaining.

2. Jesus' Response: Invitation While the people were busy judging, Jesus was busy inviting.

- **Engagement:** Jesus invited Himself into Zac's world (his home).
- **Transformation:** Jesus looked past the reputation to the potential for repentance.

- **Validation:** Jesus confirmed that Zac's radical change was evidence of true salvation.
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III. The "Meanwhile" Mandate

The *Life Application Study Bible* notes that this story serves as a blueprint for the Church during the time between Jesus' ascension and His second coming.

- **The Core Mission:** "The Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."
 - **Our Responsibility:** We have been given resources, talents, and time. Jesus expects us to multiply these for the Kingdom rather than standing on the sidelines grumbling.
 - **The Focus:** While the world (or the "crowd") is distracted by social status or judgment, the Church must remain focused on the "single lost soul."
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IV. Real-World Applications

The following accounts illustrate the mission in modern contexts:

- **Global Impact:** DJ – Bulgaria (2003)
 - **Individual Impact:** The stories of Lee Clark, Ken W, and Joe Wadlinger Sr.
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Conclusion: Finding Your "Zac"

As we worship today, the mission continues outside these walls in the Newark community.

- **The "Zacs" of Newark:** They are the people who are currently overlooked, avoided, or "notorious" in our modern culture.
- **The Personal Assignment:** Jesus has a specific "Zac" assignment for each of us—someone who needs an invitation into a relationship with Christ.
- **The Final Word:** If we call ourselves followers of Christ, seeking the lost cannot be a side project; it **must be** our core mission.