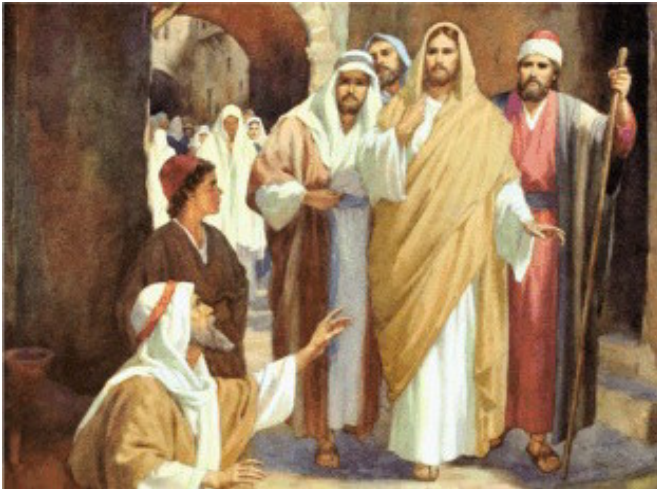


Church of God Sunday School

THE BLIND BEGGAR HEALED AND ZACCHAEUS

Luke 18:31-43; 19:1-10



The Blind Beggar Healed: Jesus and His disciples were on their way to Jerusalem where He would soon be shamefully treated and crucified.

As they came close to the city of Jericho, a blind man was sitting near the gate of the city, and he was begging. The blind man wanted to know what was causing all the noise that he heard, and the many people around him said that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by that way. When he heard that, the blind man cried out, "Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me." No doubt, he had heard of the many miracles of Jesus.

The people around him told him to be quiet, but he cried even louder, "Thou son of David, have mercy on me!"

All of this caught the attention of Jesus. Jesus stopped and stood still. He asked that the blind man be brought to Him. When the man was near to Jesus, Jesus asked him, "What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee?"

The man said humbly, "Lord, that I may receive my sight."

"Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee," Jesus said to him.

Immediately, the man received his sight. He could see! He began to follow Jesus, glorifying God. All the people who saw the miracle done to the blind man gave praise to God too!

Zacchaeus Meets Jesus: Not long after Jesus healed the beggar, He entered and passed through the city of Jericho, with the crowd of people still following Him. In this city lived a man named Zacchaeus (*za-KEE-uhs*). This man was a rich publican, or as we would say, a tax collector. The people did not like tax collectors very much because most of them were dishonest. Some tax collectors would lie to the people and tell them they owed more money to the Roman government than they really did. The tax collectors would then take the extra money paid by the people and keep it for themselves.

Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus just as much as everyone else, but he could not see over the heads of the crowd because he was very short. He must have thought to himself: "I know what I'll do! I'll climb a tree." So he ran ahead of the crowd and climbed up in a sycamore (*SIH-kuh-mohr*) tree. A sycamore tree is a sturdy tree with many wide branches that are low to the ground. This tree would have been easy for Zacchaeus to climb quickly and to see all that was going on.

When Jesus and the crowd of people came to where Zacchaeus was, to Zacchaeus' surprise, Jesus stopped right there. He looked straight up at Zacchaeus and said, "Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house." How did Jesus know Zacchaeus' name? He knows your name too.



Zacchaeus came down as fast as he could! Zacchaeus joyfully received Jesus in his home—not only in his home but in his heart also.

After Jesus and Zacchaeus had gone to Zacchaeus' house, the people murmured against Jesus, saying that He had gone to eat with a man who was a sinner. They considered publicans great sinners. But Jesus knows

the hearts of all men, and He knew all about Zacchaeus' heart before he ever climbed that tree.

Zacchaeus stood and said to Jesus, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold."

Jesus knew that Zacchaeus' heart had been changed, and He said: "This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he [Zacchaeus] also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

MEMORY VERSE:

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

—Luke 19:10

**Connect
the dots
to see
who
climbed
a tree**

