

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Four

THE MINISTRY OF SALVATION (2): THE SALVATION OF ZACCHAEUS

Burden to Impart:

Every person needs God's salvation. Regardless how sinful a person is, God is willing to save that person. In fact, God is seeking the sinners to save them. Believing on the Lord Jesus is the only way to be saved.

Memory Verse: "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which is lost" (Luke 19:10).

Facts to Teach: [Luke 19:1-10]

1. In lesson three we learned about the salvation of Nicodemus, a very clean, righteous, honest, and high-class person. Now we will learn about the salvation of a person whom the Jews considered to be just the opposite. They considered him to be a sinner and not worthy of any respect. Yet the Lord Jesus sought him out in order to bring salvation to his house. This sinner's name was Zacchaeus.
2. Zacchaeus was from Jericho which, according to the Old Testament, was a city of curse. He collected taxes for the Roman government in that city. People who worked as tax collectors for the Romans were hated by the Jews because often they cheated and stole from the people. Historians tell us that often they would raise the taxes and keep much of the money for themselves. This is why they were despised by the Jewish people and considered to be the worst of sinners.
3. Zacchaeus was a very short man. He wanted to see Jesus as he passed by but could not because the crowd was so great. Therefore, he climbed up into a sycamore tree.
4. When the Lord arrived at the place where the sycamore tree was, He simply looked up and said to Zacchaeus, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house" (Luke 19:5).
5. Zacchaeus came right down and welcomed the Lord into his house. Verse 6 tells us that Zacchaeus was rejoicing to have the Lord come into his house.
6. Then a wonderful thing happened. Zacchaeus said, "Behold, the half of my possessions, Lord, I give to the poor, and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusations, I restore four times as much" (verse 8). This saying is a wonderful proof of Zacchaeus' salvation. Why? Because he willingly offered to restore what he had taken dishonestly from his fellow Jews, and he wanted to clear up his sinful past in a righteous way.
7. In Luke 19:9 the Lord said to Zacchaeus, "Today salvation is come to this house." It did not matter to the Lord Jesus how evil and sinful this Jewish man had been. Once he repented and believed on the Lord Jesus and His words, he could receive salvation.

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Lesson Four (Continued)

8. Luke 19:10 says, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and save that which is lost." This indicates that the Savior's coming to Zacchaeus was not an accident. He had come to that cursed city for the specific purpose of seeking out and bringing salvation to this one lost sinner, Zacchaeus.

9. Our Lord is such a wonderful Savior. Wherever He is, there is salvation. In verse 5 Jesus said, "I must stay in your house." In verse 9 He said, "Today salvation has come to your house." Where Jesus is, there is salvation. Zacchaeus had the joy of experiencing this, and we can too.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON FOUR

1. In what city did Zacchaeus live? (Luke 19:1)
2. What kind of work did Zacchaeus do? (Luke 19:2)
3. Why did his fellow Jews hate him? (Luke 19:2 and 8)
4. What did Zacchaeus do when he heard Jesus and the crowd coming? (Luke 19:3-4)
5. What did the Lord Jesus do and say to Zacchaeus? (Luke 19:5)
6. Was Zacchaeus happy about what the Lord said? (Luke 19:6)
7. What did Zacchaeus offer to do that shows that he meant business with the Lord about clearing up his sinful past? (Luke 19:8)
8. What did the Lord reply? (Luke 19:10)