

For the week of August 28, 2016
Pastor: Corrie Gustafson

Looking Up to a Tax Collector

Eighth week in the series "Stories of Welcome in the Gospel of Luke."

Luke 19:1-10

The man we know as Zacchaeus is a strange kind of outsider. He is despised by his neighbors for being a tax collector, but probably envied by those same neighbors for his wealth. He is a known sinner, and yet Jesus chooses to be a guest at Zacchaeus' house. What lessons about faith might we learn from such a man?

Discussion Questions:

1. Zacchaeus was so eager to see Jesus that he climbed a tree to make it happen. When was the last time you were this eager to be close to Jesus? How have you expressed your eagerness for Jesus in the past?
2. Zacchaeus is a unique kind of outsider--a Jew, but one who is despised by his own people for his profession as a tax collector. Who do you think might be a Zacchaeus in our time and culture? How might he/she experience loneliness or isolation?
3. Jesus invites himself to stay at Zacchaeus' house and the crowd grumbles that Jesus is going into the house of a sinner. Put yourself in the crowd. Do you think you would have the same reaction? Why or why not?
4. How willing are you to follow Jesus' example and draw close to a known "sinner" in our world? What might that look like for you?