

Title: **Finding the Tree that will Save You** (NFC 6/30/13,

Subject: **Faith**

Theme: **Obstacles to Faith**

Proposition: Ever Since Christ there has always been a way to come to Christ... Pray, kneel, follow, join, study, serve, be disciplined... but the point is Christ.

Zacchaeus had a barrier, (his status and size) and was a barrier, (his role and reputation)

transition illustration: In the First Century, the ‘Gospels’ were written for a reason. The reason can be defined by the term they were originally called. GOSPELS - evangelists, proclaimers of good news!

Matthew – a former tax man who was called by Jesus to be one of the Twelve Apostles,

Mark – a follower of Peter and so an "apostolic man",

Luke – a doctor who wrote what is now the book of Luke to a friend Theophilus. Also believed to have written the book of Acts (or Acts of the Apostles) and a close friend of Paul of Tarsus,

John – a disciple of Jesus and possibly the youngest of his Twelve Apostles.

They are called evangelists, a word meaning people who proclaim good news, because their books aim to tell the good news of Jesus.[1]

Read Text:

*“He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. **And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.**” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”*

(Luke 19:1–10 ESV)

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Laura Hilldenbrand - author of Sea Biscuit wrote a book called UnBroken about...

Louis Zamperini grew up running track for his high school.

Swept the 1936 Olympics in track events. Drafted for WW2...

Finding the Tree that will Save You

Luke 19:1-10 - ESV

Story of Zacchaeus

Seeking to see Jesus

1. Barriers existed for Zacchaeus to get to Jesus

A. **His background** - the easiest path for you to take in your life is the one that was examples to you as you grew up. (My family has a story line of growing to 18 yrs and leaving home and returning only for vacations)

B. **The crowd** - the expectations of those around us often influence what we will do/not do. Zacchaeus had to overcome people's acceptance of him as well as his pride... And climb up into that sycamore tree.

3 - **His perception of Jesus reception** - would Jesus Receive him?

2. Zacchaeus Overcame the barriers

The crowd's impression of Zacchaeus resisted by Jesus

Jesus risked spoiled reputation over missing the chance with a seeking lost soul!

3. How did Jesus confront Zacchaeus' sin?

REMEMBER ~ Relationship plus contrast equals attraction!

Notice that this contrast is what leads to creativity and beauty... And meaning!

...remember what Zacchaeus did besides coming to Jesus?

Repentance means, "making it right!" - It's more than just saying I'm sorry!

Salvation is the description given to a repentant person.

Ultimately only one tree will save you, and that tree is the cross.

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Conclusion:

God wants everyone free, but why?

It takes a concept of being free to be able to catch a glimpse of what it would be like to be free from sin.

Zacchaeus wanted freedom and he saw the opportunity to get it and it looked like a tree!

What does your opportunity look like?

You may already know! you say, it looks like Jesus! If you say this you would be right, but knowing this may not make you saved!

You see, just like Zacchaeus there is a literal tree you have to climb!