

The Story of Zacchaeus

People would come from small villages nestled in the hills when they heard that Jesus was passing by. Sometimes they would bring relatives and friends who were sick, so that He could heal them. Sometimes they just came to hear the words of truth that He spoke.

So why did Jesus pick Zacchaeus out? Well, Jesus was often doing surprising things. And because he was always listening to God, they were always the right things. Jesus knew who needed healing most and who would really listen to what he said. What mattered to Jesus wasn't what people looked like, whether they were tall or short, whether they were poor or rich. What mattered was what they cared about, what was in their hearts. What people were willing to do was more important than what they said.

We know from the way Zacchaeus acted that he wasn't the sort of person to just sit around and think about doing something right. He wanted to see Jesus so badly he was willing to make himself look silly by climbing a tree. And when people talked about his being a sinner, Zacchaeus didn't even deny it. Instead he promised to do good.

So who was Zacchaeus? We can't just say that he was a short man—there have been lots of short men. Or that he was a wealthy man—there have been lots of wealthy men too. The important thing is that he had a good heart. He loved Jesus and what he stood for so much that he was willing to admit his faults and change—right then. And he didn't care about what other people thought, only about what was right.

SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS



Icon of Zacchaeus in the Sycamore Tree