

Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup>,

Luke 19:1-10- “He entered Jericho and was passing through it. <sup>2</sup>A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup>He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup>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.” <sup>6</sup>So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. <sup>7</sup>All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” <sup>8</sup>Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” <sup>9</sup>Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

The final thing necessary for a plane to take flight is a good runway. No matter how much speed or lift a plane has, if it doesn't have a long enough and smooth enough runway, that plane will not leave the ground. In much the same way, friends, if we don't put ourselves in the right spaces and places, we cannot take flight in our lives of faith. To defeat the gravitational pull of money, we need to step into the opportunities God will place in our lives to be sacrificially generous. God will pave the runway, but we are going to have to line ourselves up to use it.

There is no story that makes this clearer than Zacchaeus'. For a man in the ancient world to climb a tree would have been quite scandalous and undignified, for he risked revealing himself indecently,

and would have been open for mockery about his stature. Zacchaeus cared very little about what society thought about him, they didn't like him anyway, and instead focused on a deep desire to see and be with Jesus.

He was willing to put himself in the best place possible, to use the avenue God had created to get close to Jesus. Are we willing to do the same, even when it might cause us to be ridiculed? Are we hopping onto the runways of generosity that God has provided for us? Or are we afraid of what our friends might say if we can't "keep up with the Joneses" because we have gotten serious about our generosity? Let us be a people who are willing to be a little big undignified for the Kingdom of God, because of all that God has done for us.

#### Questions for the Day

1. Have you ever felt the pressure to spend based on what your friends were spending?
2. How can you work with God to overcome that pressure, and hop onto the runway of generosity God has provided?