



*Connect with God.
Connect with each other.
Connect with the community.*

FRESH START: *Salvation in the House*

Scripture Passage: Luke 19:1-10

We owe Luke a great debt. For in his Gospel alone is told a dramatic story that capsulizes for us what the mission of Jesus was all about, and in turn what the mission of the church is all about. The event happened while Jesus was passing through Jericho, the city of palms. Writes Luke: "And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector, and he was rich." In one sentence we are told the story of a human life.

Let us sing - the Song Zacchaeus,
*Zacchaeus was a wee little man,
And a wee little man was he.
He climbed up in a sycamore tree,
For the lord he wanted to see.*

*And as the Savior passed that way
He looked up in the tree,
And he said, "Zacchaeus,
You come down;
For I'm going to your house today,
Yes, I'm going to your house today"*

Who remembers learning about Zacchaeus in Sunday School?
Tell me what you recall about him!

We know a lot about him but...

Here are some interesting insights about Zacchaeus:

1. **Zacchaeus May Have Had a Different Name Later in Life**
Some early church traditions identify Zacchaeus with Matthias, the disciple chosen to replace Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:23-26). While there is no direct biblical evidence, some believe his radical transformation under Jesus made him a key figure among the early believers.
2. **He Might Have Become a Bishop**
According to Clement of Alexandria and some other church historians, Zacchaeus later became the bishop of Caesarea. If true, this would mean that his encounter with Jesus led to a lifelong commitment to the Gospel.
3. **He Wasn't Necessarily Hated by Everyone**
While tax collectors were despised, Zacchaeus was called the "chief tax collector" (Luke 19:2), which means he was likely wealthy and influential. Some scholars believe that not all Jews hated him—some may have respected his business acumen.

~Sermon *cont'd* on pg. 3



March 9th, 2025

9:15AM
Sunday school

10:30AM
Traditional Service



**Daylight Savings time
begins on Sunday,
March 9th.**
**Remember to turn
your clocks
FORWARD one hour
on Saturday night!**



10- Laura Owen
105 Dolomite Dr
Colorado Spr., CO 80919

13 – Becky Dodson
15 Whitepine Gulch
Reading, PA 19607

15- Wanda Steffey
4851 Perkiomen Ave.,
Lot 71
Reading, PA 19606



COLLECTING SODA TABS IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS, BERKS, INC.

From now until Tuesday, May 20th, Calvary members and friends are asked to collect soda tabs, bring them to church, and place them in the bottle on the back counter in the narthex.

The soda tabs will be given to the Ronald McDonald House in Central PA to support families with housing and meals while a child is receiving medical care at Hershey Medical Center.

Let's help support this worthwhile community endeavor!

WE ARE HIRING

JOIN OUR TEAM

- Summer camp counselors & a lifeguard
- 20-40 hours weekly, M-F
- No weekend hours
- Aides start at \$14.00
- AGS start at \$16
- GS start at \$17

Submit your resume to:
CALVARYCARE@COMCAST.NET

A hobby turned ministry

The internet has transformed shopping, whether for Christmas, major purchases or even groceries. I've spent hours scrolling Facebook Marketplace for just the right new-to-me items. Hunting for a great deal or a unique piece is part of the appeal.

But after reading Philippians 2:4, I also began paying attention to the people I encountered along the way. "Don't look out only for your own interests," that verse says, "but take an interest in others, too" (NLT).

A retired couple all but invited me to dinner when I bought a lamp from them. I remember the woman's delight as she described her recipe. A young man with developmental challenges who sold me a video game communicated its quality much better than anyone I've encountered.

When a mom purchased some chairs from us, she shared her excitement while loading her van. Her family now had a "real home" after living in an RV during a tough time. Once I bought furniture from a woman who was visibly stressed, exhausted from helping her mother-in-law move out of state.

As my transactions turned into interactions, my heart was changing — for the better. My hobby became more enjoyable and meaningful as I took time to listen and care.

—Janna Firestone

4. **His Immediate Generosity Was Unusual**

Zacchaeus' response to Jesus was extreme compared to other tax collectors. He pledged to give half of his wealth to the poor and repay four times what he had taken dishonestly. This was beyond what Jewish law required (Leviticus 6:5). His repentance was not just words, but immediate action.

5. **His Name Means 'Pure' or 'Innocent'**

The irony of Zacchaeus' name (which means "pure" or "righteous" in Hebrew) is striking because he started as a corrupt tax collector but became a symbol of true righteousness through repentance.

Who does Zacchaeus represent in our midst?

Zacchaeus embodies those who are **hurting, burdened, and longing for hope—the brokenhearted, sinners, outcasts, and weary wanderers.**

He represents those who feel **alone, rejected, ashamed, and distant from God.**

All of these were obstacles in coming to God and, he was short

Yet, despite his **restlessness and struggles**, Zacchaeus sought Jesus.

However, **obstacles stood in his way**—obstacles we, too, may face:

1. **Pride & Power** – The belief that status or success can replace true fulfillment.
2. **Idolatry & Self-centeredness** – A life consumed by materialism and personal desires.
3. **The World's Temptations** – As Matthew 16:26 reminds us:
"What does it profit a man to gain the whole world, yet lose his soul?"

Zacchaeus had *everything* the world could offer, yet he was still empty. But when he encountered **Jesus**, **everything changed. What obstacles keep us—and others—from fully surrendering to Christ?**

V5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." Don't delay, now is the time of salvation, HURRY!

The story of Zacchaeus symbolizes Jesus' open arms to all those who are lost or have strayed from the path of their moral compass. Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus transformed him. It not only offers him new life, or "salvation," but a restored relationship in the community. **Perhaps more accurately, restored relationships are part of what salvation is.** Jesus Saw More Than a Tax Collector—He Saw a Son of Abraham. Jesus recognized Zacchaeus not by his occupation or past but as a **human being with worth in God's eyes.**

The true interaction with Jesus leads to accountability and Zacchaeus' repentance, followed up with justice and generosity. Not only was Zacchaeus transformed, but his entire community was restored through his acts of reconciliation. A fresh start with Jesus impacts many.

⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now, I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

When he **chose** to let Jesus **dine with him**, he was transformed.

Being with Jesus changed him.

Jesus changed Zacchaeus from getting to giving, from overcharging to overcompensating, from extortion to compassion. Zacchaeus found the Kingdom of God

In Matthew 13:44 "The kingdom of heaven is like **treasure hidden in a field**. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking **for fine pearls**.⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. Once we found salvation, by God's grace, we become a citizen of God's kingdom, **we have the treasure, and we have the pearl, nothing else matters. When we have the Kingdom of God in our hearts, When Jesus is really reigning as KING in our hearts WHEN JESUS IS KING IN OUR HEARTS We can give up everything because it is everything that matters.**

We can give up everything because it is everything that matters. In the name of the Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen



Dear Church Family and Friends,

Just like last year's "Draw the Circle" Prayer Challenge by Mark Batterson, we once again invite you to join us this Lent for a meaningful 40-day journey inspired by beloved hymns and guided by James Howell's insightful book "Unrevealed Until Its Season."

Schedule:

Every day, from March 6th through April 19th, at 6:00 PM, excluding Sundays.

- Sessions will be held in-person at the Chapel and via Zoom.

We need two volunteers each day: one (1) to read the book aloud and lead the discussion and one (1) to provide music accompaniment. Volunteers will lead the book study discussions based on "Unrevealed Until Its Season" by James C. Howell.

Here is the link to Signup Genius, or you can email/call the church office, and we will sign you up for the day of your choosing (see volunteer needs below.)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084DA4AB2BA3F94-55175880-40day>

- Meeting ID: 647 829 181; Passcode: 082013
- Join Zoom

Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/647829181?pwd=dHlMM09HSmFQcUZ3bEorMUNwRUNkZz09>

Location: Calvary UMC at 1 W Wyomissing Avenue Mohnton, PA 19540 Together, we'll reflect, share, and grow spiritually as we walk through this holy season. Everyone is welcome—join us as we journey toward Easter, discovering the truths "unrevealed until its season."

JIM ADAMS
KEVIN ATHOUSE
BOBBY BAKER
DAVID BAKER
JOE BLACKBURN, JR
RICK BRUETSCH
KYLIE BRUMBACH
ELI & EMMA CHANDLER
LINDA CHANDLER
SIENNA CHANDLER
TREAVER COMEAU
NANCY CRONRATH
CHARLIE CULTER
DAVE CURLEY
LAINA D'GIROLAMO
BROOKLYN DANIELS
LYNN DANIELS
MICHELLE DANIELS
RAY DAUTRICH
KAREN DAVIS
CANDY DODSON
MATT EDGERTON
BONNIE EHST
GINNY EPPS
ANDREW ERB
FAM OF PATRICIA FINAN
DAVE & LINDA FLAMM

AMELIA FORTUNATO
RON FOX
RUNETTE GABRIEL
STEVE & BARBARA GANCER
SANDY GRAFFIUS
PEGGY HARSHAW
RICH & JAN HARTMAN
TOM HASSLER
JACK HIGGINS
DAVID HOFFMAN
TAD & CORI HORNE
DANNY HUTZELL
KELLY HUTZELL
NICK JACOBS
ERIC JENTES
PEGGY JONES
NICK KARETAS
JOHN KLINE
REV DON & ELVA KNOT
ED LEISER, SR.
JODI LOMBARDO
BRUCE MADEIRA
PHIL MAGERMAN
DEB MCGAHEN
JULIE MCGETTRICK
BRENDA MEYERS
JENNIFER MILLER
MOTHER & 2YO CHILD

DANIELLA MUNTEAN
RYAN MYHER
GLENN NOLL
FAM. OF BILL PAGAN
RON PATON
MICHELE PEARSON
CHARLES PLUSHINISKI
MARK RAPP
RON ROSS
LORRAINE ROTH
FAM. OF YRAH SANCHEZ
PAULLINE SCHMEHL
TONY SINGH
BOB & WANDA STEFFEY
MIRIAM STEFFEY
TRACEY SUNDAY
JOANNE TALARICO
KELSEY TAVERAS
MARY THOMAS
LOLA TROUTMAN
KAREN WADE
SUSIE WAHL
NELLY & JAE WALLACE
BOB WERNER
SUE WERNER
MARIANNA WOLFE



PRAY