

TRINITY NEWS

Pentecost 24 Pause Moments that can Change us Forever

The contents of Luke 19:1-10 are very familiar to us because they are cast in pictorial language. Words that paint pictures are memory magnets. Jesus is passing through the ancient city of Jericho. There are excavations in the Jericho area, deep shafts unfolding many centuries of civilization for those who peer down them. But someone peering down from a tree is centre stage here. Then someone looks up.

As the entourage of Jesus passes through, a rich tax collector named Zacchaeus climbs a sycamore tree to see Jesus because he is short of stature and cannot see over the crowd. He is looking down as Jesus passes when suddenly Jesus looks up at him and tells him that he wants to come to his house. This gladdens Zacchaeus and he jumps down to welcome Jesus. His hiding place has been exposed and he assumes immediately that the presence in front of him knows all about him. He blurts out that he will offer more than adequate reparation to those whom he has overtaxed in any way or what he may have withheld from his Roman masters.

Jesus tells Zacchaeus, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost" (Luke 19:9-10). This is the punch line, the summary statement of the whole incident. The purpose of telling every story is often in the last line. It is a word to Zacchaeus and a statement to the crowd nearby.

Dialogue with the story and the reader:

We all have moments of feeling shut out. We all need someone then who comes, not to intrude, but to really see us and look into our emotional heart and read our feelings, without judgment. Zacchaeus was conscious of being small of stature. When we look in the mirror when we step from the shower, that is what we have and no more. We cannot be more handsome or more

beautiful than were are, and we cannot match the talk of superb raconteurs. We may have cosmetic surgery or work hard on being more articulate, but the basics remain, and we all have gifts. Our good deeds and the not-so-good ones remain, but we can make reparation like Zacchaeus offered. Surgery and medicine help to heal the body and soothe the mind, but only God can heal the yearnings of the heart.

May salvation come to your house, and may you welcome Christ to your inner home where you can sit by the fire of the Spirit of God with him and be reassured and refreshed in your soul. It obliterates the past for a space and brings a less-feared future into view.

Bishop Arthur Jones

THIS WEEK:

Nov. 2. Wednesday.

- Bible Study, 10:00am
- Group discussion, 7:30pm, Rectory

Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10:00am, Chapel

TO PLAN:

- **Remembrance Sunday, Nov. 13, 9:30a.m.**
- **Joint Thanksgiving service, Sunday Nov. 20, 6:30 p.m., Union Church of Manila**
- **Thanksgiving Dinner, Nov. 24, Parish Hall**