

Jesus Came To Look For You!

By Bill Denton

INTRODUCTION

A. The Bible tells an interesting story about a man named Zaccheus (Lk. 19:1-10)

1. Zaccheus was a wealthy man
 - a. he was a chief tax collector
 - b. even without cheating people, it would have been possible for him to make a tidy sum of money
2. Physically, he was a small man, of short height
 - a. it presented him with a particular problem on the day that Jesus came to town
 - b. he could not see because of the crowd
 - c. he climbed into a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus
3. Jesus saw him and told him to come down because he was going to stay at his house
 - a. Zaccheus was happy to serve as Jesus' host
 - b. others grumbled because in their estimation, Jesus had gone to stay at the house of a sinner
4. It seems that Zaccheus may have heard these comments because he made some interesting comments regarding his willingness to do what was right
 - a. Luke 19:8 -- Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much." NASU
 - b. it's either a claim to honesty or a willingness to correct anything done wrong
 - c. either way, it's a powerful statement of a man of faith, with some confidence in Jesus
5. Jesus then responded to Zaccheus with his own statement
 - a. Luke 19:9-10 -- And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." NASU
 - b. Jesus used the occasion to proclaim his purpose in the world
 - c. there is no clearer statement anywhere in the Bible defining what Jesus was doing

B. It is a beautiful thought, this idea that Jesus came to seek and to save the lost – at least until We think seriously about exactly who it is he's seeking, and the condition of those he seeks

1. News flash – he's seeking you
 - a. do you think it might have surprised Zaccheus to find out that he was exactly the kind of fellow Jesus was looking for?
 - b. does the thought that Jesus is looking for you come as a surprise?
2. Let's think together about this amazing truth, and see one more time the good news that waits for us in Jesus Christ

I. A SHORT PICTURE OF JESUS' PURPOSE

A. Matt 1:21 -- "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." NASU

B. Luke 2:10-11 -- But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. NASU

C. John 1:29 -- The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! NASU

D. John 3:16-17 -- "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. NASU

E. John 10:9-10 -- "I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. NASU

F. Acts 4:12 -- "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." NASU

G. Now, we need to bring the truth of Jesus as Savior to bear on ourselves

1. It is Jesus who will save us, if we are to be saved
2. We are to find in Jesus news of great joy
3. He is the one who takes away our sins
4. We are so loved by God, that he sent his only begotten Son to save us
5. If we want life, we need to find it in Jesus
6. There is no one else who can save us from our sins
7. But, here's one of the most important parts of the gospel – Jesus is looking for you

II. WHERE DID JESUS FIND PEOPLE?

A. He found them on the job

1. When he called his disciples, many of them were busily employed in working at their jobs
 - a. fishermen
 - b. a tax collector
 - c. Paul was a tentmaker
2. Jesus thought it more important to answer the call of salvation than to keep working

B. He found them at social gatherings

1. He went to banquets, he ate meals with people, he attended a wedding
2. Jesus thought it more important to talk about salvation than about the things that usually fill our conversations

C. He found them involved with religious activities

1. He attended the synagogues (actually it was his habitual practice to be there)
2. He attended the temple (observing all the religious practices of his day)
3. Jesus offered much more than religious ritual, he offered salvation from sin

D. He found them in the crush of the market, and the curiosity of those who noticed something New and different going on

1. He endured throngs of people coming to hear him teach
2. He endured the pleas of those who had friends, family or even themselves who were in need of healing from demons, physical ailments, and death
3. Jesus thought it even more important to think on heavenly things, to store up treasure in heaven, and to seek the will of the Father

E. In short, Jesus found people in the same basic places we still find them today

1. Busy with the responsibilities of life
2. Caught up in social life, religious practice, and all the other things that we make important to our lives
3. He found them at home, at work, in the shops, on the roads, wherever there were people, there he found those who needed saving
4. John 4:35 -- "Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. NASU
 - a. everywhere Jesus looked, there were the lost, the sinful, the condemned, the spiritually dead
 - b. his world was full of the lost

III. THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO KNOW IS THAT JESUS CAME TO LOOK FOR YOU

A. Where will he find you?

1. Will he find you in your sin?
 - a. where else, really, is there to be?
 - b. if you don't want him to find you there, you don't really want him to find you
2. Will he find you in the places where sin has taken you?
 - a. what other place is there for you to be?
 - b. if you don't want him to find you there, you don't really want him to find you

3. Will he find you participating in the activities that sin produces in life?
 - a. what other things would you expect him to find you doing?
 - b. if you don't want him to find you doing those things, you don't really want him to find you

4. Will he find you suffering the consequences of bad choices, rebellious behavior, and selfish, self-centered living?
 - a. in what other condition would you expect him to find you?
 - b. if you don't want him to find you suffering those consequences, you don't really want him to find you

B. Or, will you deny where you are, hide from him, and disallow his search for you?

CONCLUSION

A. Jesus came to save lost sinners

1. That's why he came looking for you
2. He knew you needed to be saved
3. He did not want you to suffer sin's condemnation
4. In his love, his mercy and his grace, Jesus came to do the Father's will, which was to redeem those who are dead in sin

B. Answer the call of the gospel today

1. Respond in faith, putting your trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord
2. Obey the Father's will by repenting of sin, confessing Jesus, and being baptized

C. Invitation