



The Heart of Jesus – Part 5

Introduction:

This week Matt concludes a new series called '**The Heart of Jesus**' with **Part 5**. We're continuing to look at what scripture says about the Heart of Jesus and who Jesus really is.

Most of us have the idea that before we come to Jesus we need to clean ourselves up, to make ourselves better so that Jesus can accept us. We need to get our house in order, we need to get our ducks in a row before we come to church because our lives are a mess. This might be the way our world works, but maybe Jesus is different. This week we take another look at the story of Zacchaeus & how that shows us the Heart of Jesus.

Questions:

1. Have you ever wondered if Jesus was here today, who would He hang out with? Who would He choose to spend time with? Do you worry that He wouldn't want to be with you because of your mess?
2. What do you know about Zacchaeus? What was wrong with Zacchaeus from the Jewish perspective? Why were the people so unhappy that Jesus would choose to associate with him? Why would Jesus choose to go home with him out of all of the people in Jericho?

Luke 19:1-4;7

3. Why is it important that Jesus chose to go with Zacchaeus before Zacchaeus had cleaned himself up, before he decided to give back what he had stolen, or to give to the poor? Didn't Jesus know who Zacchaeus was & all that he had done? **Luke 19:8-9; Romans 5:6-8**

4. Do you have the same mentality as Zacchaeus? In what ways do you try to impress Jesus with how spiritual you are? What trees are you climbing, what things are you doing so that He will stop under your tree?
5. Do you need to 'Come Down' from trusting yourself and your good works? Do you need to stop trusting in your abilities and 'righteous' acts? Do you need to stop acting spiritual and just be spiritual? **Luke 19:5-6**
6. What do you think Zacchaeus was expecting before he met Jesus? What changed for Zacchaeus between verses 7 & 8? Why is it important that Zacchaeus calls Jesus Lord? Why was what he promised to do so extreme under the Levitical Law? How would it impact the people of Jericho, who knew Zacchaeus and all he had done, to see a radically changed Zacchaeus after he had been with Jesus? **Luke 19:8-9**
7. If we are all Zacchaeus (dirty rotten sinners), what's wrong with the idea of cleaning yourself up & making yourself better by addressing the mess in your life? What changes in your life when you focus on the man, Jesus Christ, and not the law? Do you know that if your life isn't dramatically changing for the better every day, you haven't met the person of Jesus? Maybe the only answer to your mess is Jesus, the friend of sinners?

Key Takeaway: Who's Zacchaeus? I'm Zacchaeus, you're Zacchaeus. For we all have fallen short. We're all Zacchaeus, we're all dirty rotten sinners. But the best news is, Jesus is a friend of sinners. He loves us. And He meets us in the middle of our mess. That's His heart. That's who He is. And when you meet Him and fall in love with Him. Everything changes.

Summary:

- a. Who would Jesus hang out with today?
- b. Zacchaeus wasn't just any sinner, he was a chief sinner
- c. Jesus as a quest of a sinner before he was cleaned up
- d. Tree climbing to impress Jesus
- e. Come Down!
- f. Jesus friend of sinners
- g. We are all Zacchaeus