

Friday, July 10

“A Giant in the Sight of God”
Luke 19:1-10

Jesus enters the town of Jericho. A vertically challenged chief tax collector named Zacchaeus climbs a sycamore tree in order to see the popular rabbi. Stopping in front of the tree, Jesus orders Zacchaeus to come down, that he is going to Zacchaeus' house. Everyone grumbles that Jesus is socializing with a sinner. But Zacchaeus proclaims that he will give half his possessions to the poor and if he has defrauded anyone, he will repay them four fold.

There was no one more despised than a tax collector, especially the chief tax collector. They were viewed as greedy, lying, cheating, religiously unclean, rapacious and unpatriotic because of their collaboration with the hated Romans. And yet, the Son of God decides to go to his house, create a relationship with him.

Time and again in his ministry, we see Jesus give people a second chance, providing them an opportunity to change their lives, to allow God's love and forgiveness to lead them in a new direction. Jesus' actions call each of us to ask ourselves if we seek out those everyone else grumbles about, desiring to help them find the right place where they can be healed and made whole?

With Zacchaeus, it worked. We do not know what Jesus said to Zacchaeus, but it led him to give away half his possessions to the poor and repay four fold anyone he defrauded. When Christ changes us, we will act differently. True repentance, genuine gratitude to God, always produces actions that will illustrate that change, and primary among those changes is the generous giving of our resources to God. What we do with our money reflects where our heart truly is.

This morning, as I reflect on what portion of my income I will give to support the ministry of Fountain Inn Presbyterian Church, does my gift represent my gratitude to God, my faith in God, my desire to grow in love and generosity?

Ludwig Weaver

Luke 19:10: *“For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”*