

## Lessons From People Who Followed Jesus.

**This week** – continuing our series of lessons which teach us how to savingly follow Jesus Christ.

*“For the Son of Man has come to seek  
and to save that which was lost”.*

*Luke 19v10.*

### Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Luke 19v1-10 (Zacchaeus, a sinner finds forgiveness)	
Monday	Luke 19v28-38 (A week before the cross)	
Tuesday	Luke 19v39-48 (Jesus weeps over Jerusalem)	
Wednesday	Luke 21v1-19 (Jesus tells us the future)	
Thursday	Luke 21v20-38 (The End of Time – Christ’s return)	
Friday	Ephesians 1v1-23 (Saved to be the Praise of His Glory)	
Saturday	Ephesians 4v17-32 (Put Off the ‘Old Man’)	

**Important Question for us Today:** What is sin? It is breaking God’s Holy Law. Satan, the enemy of God and our soul, has beguiled the world to re-define ‘sin’, declaring that ‘it is not bad’. People say, “In today’s ‘modern and enlightened age’ we must be allowed the freedom to do whatever we like”. Sometimes this is qualified by, “so long as no-one else suffers from our action”. **But** can you think of any sin that does not have consequences to the sinner as well as to others around them? Sins such as pride, selfishness, disobedience to parents, lying, cheating, stealing, coveting, unfaithfulness in marriage, lustful living and thinking, hating, murder, etc. – these all end in someone’s life and happiness being spoilt, as well as the terrible effect on the one perpetrating the sinful act. **Sin also includes** unbelief in God, ignoring His teaching in The Bible – even rejecting teaching we do not like, idol worship, man-made religion, insincere worship, taking God’s Name in vain, dishonouring The Lord’s Day, etc. God in His wisdom has given us The 10 Commandments (Exodus 20). We cannot keep these perfectly (however hard we try), and so they cannot save us. They are ‘**God’s School Master**’ to teach us what sin is. It is foolish to say, “**We have not sinned**”. **God in His love and mercy has provided a Saviour.** We thank the Lord for sending His Son, Jesus Christ **to seek and to save lost sinners** – those who, in sincere faith, repent and believingly seek to live in obedience to Him.

**Hymn 404 Reminding us that submission to The Lord Jesus Christ brings forgiveness and peace:**

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| 1. I bring my sins to Thee,<br>The sins I cannot count,<br>That I now cleansed may be<br>In Thy once-opened fount:<br>I bring them, Saviour, all to Thee;<br>The burden is too great for me. | 3. My life I bring to Thee,<br>I would not be my own;<br>O Saviour, may I be<br>Thine ever, Thine alone!<br>My heart, my life, my all, I bring<br>To Thee, my Saviour and my King. |
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EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet.

*This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.*

## A Wealthy Taxman – A ‘Publican’.

- **Zacchaeus – A Jew, but a Chief Taxman for the Romans.**
    - Became very rich - taking more tax than he should, keeping it for himself.
    - **Completely irreligious** – selfish, greedy, dishonest, rotten, a thief - disliked.
  - **Zacchaeus was Corrupt, Spiritually Lost - He Needed a Saviour.**
    - In God’s sight he was as bad as the Pharisees who were Religious Hypocrites.
    - He thought he was not as bad as them – ‘I do not pretend to worship God’.
    - Yet he was curious – he had a strong desire to see Jesus as He passed by.
      - Although unpopular with the crowd he braved their scorn and ran ahead.
      - Risking making a fool of himself, he climbed a tree to see and hear Jesus.
  - **The Lord had come especially to Jericho to Seek Out Zacchaeus.**
    - **The Lord stopped**, called him by name and said, ‘*I must abide at your house*’.
    - The people said, ‘*That He was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner*’.
    - **Zacchaeus was surprised** - humbled to know that the Lord knew all his sin:
      - He began to feel guilty - His large house had been acquired by dishonest means – by years of cheating and extorting money from other people.
      - Zacchaeus was amazed that Jesus was not at all troubled by what the people thought of Him and that He wanted to spend time to talk with him.
- This reminds us that the Lord Jesus Christ, being the Perfect Son of God, came from Heaven, putting aside His reputation, and went all the way to Calvary to die for the sins of His People, to save them, because He loved them so much. See Philippians 2v5-11.**
- **The Lord had come especially to Jericho to Save Zacchaeus.**
    - We note how thorough conversion is – the heart’s desires totally changed, moving him to hate his sin and want to love and obey God.
    - Zacchaeus was convicted - feeling deep sorrow for his sin in Jesus’ presence.
  - **Zacchaeus’ Sincere Response.**
    - He stopped on the spot and humbly repented in front of the large crowd.
    - He was converted, given a new heart - such that he immediately wanted to give away half of his goods, and pay back four times what he had taken.

**When a person becomes a Christian, through sincere faith in Jesus Christ, people will notice the change. Old sins are avoided, and new holy desires exhibited.**

- **What about us? Do we have a deep desire to find the Lord as Saviour?**
  - Do we believe, like Zacchaeus did, that The Lord Jesus Christ came to this earth to suffer and die for our sins so that we can be personally forgiven?
  - Do we believe the Lord seeks us and is willing to save us if we repent?

**The Apostle Paul wrote, “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: ... They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one”.**

Romans 3v10,12.