

# Story of Zacchaeus

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 19

**MEMORY VERSE:** For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

**CHARACTERS:** Zacchaeus, his family, a crowd and Jesus

When Jesus began His ministry, great crowds of people would follow Him. They all wanted to hear what He taught and to see the miracles He would perform.

The Bible tells us of a time when Jesus was walking through the town of Jericho. As the crowd gathered around Jesus it was hard for the boys and girls to see Him. In the crowd that day was also a short man who wanted to see Jesus. He couldn't see over the heads of the taller people in the crowd so he ran ahead and climbed up in a tree.

This man's name was Zacchaeus. He was a tax collector for the area. The government would assign how much money they expected him to collect but then he would collect more and keep it. For this reason the people hated him!

On this day Zacchaeus sat up in the tree and waited for Jesus to pass under the tree. But when Jesus came to the tree He stopped right under the tree. He looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, you come down. I want to come to your house today!" Zacchaeus was surprised by this request from Jesus and very happy!

But the people in the crowd were angry. They couldn't believe Jesus was going to this sinner's house! How could He do this? Why would He do this? We know people look on the outside appearance, but Jesus was looking at Zacchaeus' heart.

Jesus called Zacchaeus by name and told him to hurry down from the tree. Jesus doesn't want us to wait but to follow him – now! Jesus shared a meal with Zacchaeus and his family. Zacchaeus asked forgiveness for his sins. And he said he would give back the extra money he had taken from the people. Jesus called Zacchaeus out of the crowd for all to see how much He loved him

Jesus knows you by name, too. When you know He is calling you, answer Him. Trust Him and He will save you from your sins!

**Jesus loves us so much and he wants us to love him too!!**