



Perfecting Witness: Salt and Light Encounters

Zacchaeus: Instant & Impossible

This series will explore the many 'salt and light' encounters that Jesus had with those He met. Salt and light represent two basic forms of witness that Jesus gave us in the Sermon on the Mount.

Introduction: Salt and Light *Matt 5:13-16*

1. **Salt:** Something that is rubbed or poured out as a flavoring or preservative. Salt represents 'active' witness like the woman at the well *John 4*
2. **Light:** Something that shines and exposes—it is mostly passive. Light represents the believers 'life' as a witness. It is mostly unspoken but can be a powerful draw (attraction) such as Zacchaeus. *Luke 19:1-10*

Zacchaeus: Light through the leaves...

A. Light Seekers *Luke 19:1-4*

1. Zacchaeus was an improbable light seeker!
 - He was rich *Luke 18:24-27*
 - He was a corrupt tax collector
2. Light seekers often are just waiting for the right opportunity:
 - *Jesus was passing through...*
3. Light seekers will 'seek' out answers no matter the obstacles—even climbing trees.

B. From Impossible to Possible *Luke 19:5-6*

1. Jesus knows who and where His people are *John 10:14*
 - Zacchaeus in a tree, Nathanael under a tree *John 1:48*
 - Jesus knew his name: Zacchaeus
2. Make haste—when Jesus calls
3. I must abide at your house *Rev 3:20*
4. Zacchaeus 'received' the Lord with JOY :6

C. Light Shines in the Darkness *Luke 19:7-10*

1. Some will always criticize what is done to win the lost. *Luk 15:1*
2. In contrast Zacchaeus' conversion is verified by his actions:
 - He would give half of his goods to the poor
 - For those he had cheated he would pay back fourfold
3. Jesus confirms his salvation: "salvation has come to this house"
4. **Faith:** Zacchaeus exercised the same kind of faith in the Lord that Abraham did. "...he is also a son of Abraham." *Gen 22*

D. Are You The Light of the World? *Luke 19:10*

1. Jesus primary mission was to seek and save the lost!
2. Jesus gave us the Spirit and authority that we also might fulfill this mission. *Acts 1:8; Mat 28:18-20*

*Give a man a dollar, and you cheer his heart.
Give him a dream, and you challenge his heart.
Give him Christ, and you change his heart.*

Luke 19:1-10

:1 Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.
:2 Now behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.
:3 And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature.
:4 So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way.
:5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house."
:6 So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.
:7 But when they saw *it*, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."
:8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."
:9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham;
:10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

*Should first my lamp
spread light
and purest rays bestow
The oil must then
from you,
my dearest Jesus, flow.*

Angelus Silesius (1624-1677)