

THE LONGWAY ROUND

4. Seek And Save

Start off with feedback from Sunday's message. What did those that were there - or those that have caught up online - take away from it? What encouraged them, what informed them and what challenged them?

Read Luke 19.1-10

9 Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. **10** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.'

- v1. 'Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through.' Why does Jesus tell Zacchaeus he *must stay* at his house when Luke clearly records his intention was just to pass through Jericho? Are we open to the Holy Spirit interrupting our plans with spontaneous guidance? Have you had any experiences like this?
- What impacts you most about the way in which Jesus deals with Zacchaeus? Why is it significant that Jesus called Zacchaeus by his given name? ('Pure the Gangster', as Alex put it!) How do you think Jesus knew his name – miracle or reputation? How do those two different options affect the story?
- v7. 'all the people... began to mutter'. Everyone there struggled with what Jesus was doing, not even his disciples thought this was an appropriate thing to do. Do you think that sometimes God is not fair? He's gracious to those that deserve it the least. There must have been plenty more deserving or needy people in Jericho.
- Zacchaeus pledged half his wealth to the poor and promised to make restitution for the wrong he'd done. Do we feel the need to make reparations for the wrong things we've done – or do we think that's being overly religious?
- Jesus took the initiative with Zacchaeus. He came to 'seek and save the lost'. How can we collaborate with Jesus in his mission to save the lost around us? How do we seek after people without it being inappropriate or awkward?

Big Idea: 'Nothing excludes you from getting to know Jesus, no matter how lost you feel.'

Pray in twos and threes that Jesus would use you to 'seek and save' people lost from his love. Pray specifically for people in your work, friendship group or neighbourhood that you think might be 'climbing trees' - secretly looking for God and interested in Jesus. Pray for opportunities to spend time with them and help them find Jesus.