



**“How Jesus Walked Across The Room”**  
**Luke 19:1-10 \* 11/29/09**

*I. Most Christians know they should share their faith, but they're held back because...*

- A. ...they think it's \_\_\_\_\_ or weird.
- B. ...they've forgotten how \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ it is to be a follower of Christ.
- C. ...they're not really sure \_\_\_\_\_.

*IV. Why did Jesus avoid staying in a safe, spiritual ghetto?*

*V. Bill Hybels observes that the longer a person is a Christian, something happens. What is it?*

*How about me? How many friends do I have outside the church?*

**Lesson Three: Like Jesus, we need to know how to bring a lost soul \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.**

*I. Are all people equally receptive to Jesus?*

*II. Where was Zacchaeus on the ‘Spiritual Spectrum of Faith’?*

*III. What things will always be true in a person who says the “Sinner’s Prayer” and means it?*

- A. They know their \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. They understand their need for the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
- C. They are determined to submit to Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_.

*IV. What did Jesus do with those thinking about following him?*

- A. He told them up front the cost of \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. He never \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. He \_\_\_\_\_ all who came to him.

**The Lessons Jesus Teaches Us About Sharing Our Faith In The Story Of Zacchaeus**

**Lesson One: Like Jesus, we must be willing to leave our \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and enter into the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.**

*I. Where was Jesus’ destination? And what was he going to do there?*

*II. Did Jesus have his own “circle of comfort”?*

*Why do we like to hang out there?*

*What was Jesus willing to do?*

*III. How willing am I to leave my circle of comfort?*

**I dread it! 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 Piece of Cake!**

*What are ways God would have me do this?*

**Lesson Two: Like Jesus, we must be willing to see lost people through the eyes of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

*I. Why did the people say nasty things about Zacchaeus?*

*II. Jesus not only could see what a person was, but he also could see...*

*III. Sadly, how do many Christians look at people who are lost?*



## “How Jesus Walked Across The Room” Luke 19:1-10 \* 11/29/09

I. Most Christians know they should share their faith, but they're held back because...

- A. ...they think it's **unnatural** or weird.
- B. ...they've forgotten how **life-changing** it is to be a follower of Christ.
- C. ...they're not really sure **how to go about it**.

### The Lessons Jesus Teaches Us About Sharing Our Faith In The Story Of Zacchaeus

**Lesson One: Like Jesus, we must be willing to leave our circle of comfort and enter into the zone of the unknown.**

I. Where was Jesus' destination? And what was he going to do there?

**He was going to Jerusalem to offer up his life on the cross.**

II. Did Jesus have his own “circle of comfort”?

**Very much so. He like hanging out with the same group of people. Liked being in familiar places. He had habits and customs that he was comfortable with.**

Why do we like to hang out there?

**Because it's familiar. It's easy. It makes us feel in control. It feels good.**

What was Jesus willing to do?

**He was more than willing to enter into the zone of the unknown, especially for the sake of bringing a lost soul home.**

III. How willing am I to leave my circle of comfort?

**I dread it! 5 4 3 2 1 0 1 2 3 4 5 Piece of Cake!**

What are ways God would have me do this?

**Lesson Two: Like Jesus, we must be willing to see lost people through the eyes of faith and grace.**

I. Why did the people say nasty things about Zacchaeus?

**Back then, tax collectors paid Rome a contract-fee to collect taxes for a given region. And the deal was, any money collected above and beyond that fee was theirs to keep. So consequently, tax collectors could become wealthy, especially the unscrupulous ones. If you lived in a nice house, and you were a tax collector, it could pretty much be assumed that you were a scoundrel who was ripping people off.**

II. Jesus not only could see what a person was, but he also could see... what a person could be if God could get into their hearts and begin his healing work.

III. Sadly, how do many Christians look at people who are lost?

**They look down on them, or they belittle them, or they despise them, the way the people back then despised Zacchaeus. They stay inside their safe little Christian ghetto, listening only to Christian music, hanging out only with Christian friends, having the least amount of contact as possible with the unbelieving world out there, because it's unsafe or it's contaminated, filled with *those kind of people* that we have to stay away from.**

IV. Why did Jesus avoid staying in a safe, spiritual ghetto?

**“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” Jesus went out of his way to befriend people from the other side of the salvation tracks. Zacchaeus, I *must* stay at your house today. Saints, you *must* have friends that are from outside the church. You *must* walk across the room to meet those who don't yet have what you have.**

V. Bill Hybels observes that the longer a person is a Christian, something happens. What is it?

**Bill Hybels in his book, “Just Walk Across the Room” observes that tragically what is usually the case, is that the longer a person is a Christian, the fewer non-Christian friends they have. And the colder our hearts get to those who don't yet share our faith and our values. But how can they ever come to share our faith and**

values if they don't have any relationships with those who are Christ's followers.

*How about me? How many friends do I have outside the church?*

**Lesson Three: Like Jesus, we need to know how to bring a lost soul closer to God.**

*I. Are all people equally receptive to Jesus?*

We've taught in our Sunday School class this past month the idea that there is a "*spiritual spectrum of faith*" that people fall on depending on how receptive they are to Jesus. If crossing the line of faith and believing in Jesus is point zero on the spectrum, then some might be on the scale at a -1. Meaning they're right there, they just need to be nudged across. That's where Jesus found Zacchaeus, though no one else could see it.

*II. Where was Zacchaeus on the 'Spiritual Spectrum of Faith'?*

How do we know that Zacchaeus was there? Because he responds to Jesus' invitation and repents right as soon as he gets the chance. Verse 8: "Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, 'Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.' Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.'"

*III. What things will always be true in a person who says the "Sinner's Prayer" and means it?*

A. They know their need of God.

B. They understand their need for the cross of Christ.

C. They are determined to submit to Jesus' lordship.

*IV. What did Jesus do with those thinking about following him?*

A. He told them up front the cost of commitment.

B. He never begged.

*C. He welcomed all who came to him.*

Just as Jesus accepted all who came to him, old and young, so do we in this church. We'll drive no one away who is hungry for God. We'll drive no one away who is even remotely seeking God. We accept you. We love you. We wish for you that here you would find what it is you are looking for. And if it takes awhile for you to find the answers, we accept you. We won't drive you away. Here is a place where you can learn in safety with people who will love you, and not judge you. We in this congregation are convinced that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. We are convinced that Jesus is the answer for every need, every question, in your life. And our hope is that all who come through these doors will one day fall on their knees before him and say, "He is my Savior, he is my Lord." But until that day comes, we accept you and love you, just as you are. Now we won't compromise the truth with you. We won't mince words with you. If you're living your life in ways that are breaking God's heart, we'll tell you that. But we won't turn you away. We won't give you a cold shoulder or stop talking to you.

But please understand. When we look at you, and others who do not yet believe, who are not yet sure, please understand, when we look at you we see a lost child of God who needs to come home. We see a tired and confused soul who needs rest. We see someone sick with sin who needs forgiveness. And there's only one place on earth where you can find that home, that rest, that forgiveness. At the foot of the cross of Jesus Christ. And we will never stop directing you to kneel there before him, because we love you, and Jesus loves you most of all.