

Unashamed

Part 5 – The God who Seeks Luke 19.1-10

Who is seeking?

- Jesus is the Son of Man
 - Victorious title from the OT (Dan. 7)
- Man on a mission
 - He *came* to seek – this is why He is here

Whom is He seeking?

The Lost

- Our lostness may demonstrate itself differently, but everyone qualifies as lost
 - For some it looks like Zaccheus – chasing the dollar and all it will buy, surrendering to the system that keeps others down as long as I am the one lifted up
 - For some it looks like the “they” – religious people sold out to the respect of those in their tribe but long ago having forsaken the responsibility of being real in the world
- This has something to say about you and me – this is our condition apart from being sought by Jesus
 - Just because you don’t sin in the way I think is acceptable doesn’t mean that we both don’t need Jesus to seek us and find us

Why is He seeking?

- To save the lost
 - He doesn’t just want to find them but wants to rescue them (“Rescue” Helicopter)
- Rescue brings transformation
 - The life change evident in Zaccheus challenges us to let it be seen in us too (generosity replaces greed, sacrifice replaces convenience, service replaces comfort, joy replaces insecurity)

What is our role in this story?

- Some may very well find themselves as Zaccheus or “they”
 - For most, we need to hear His invitation
 - Invitation to follow Him as He seeks and saves the lost
 - It won’t always be easy, comfortable, convenient
 - It will at times be messy, loud, and crazy
 - This is what He promised (Matthew 4.19)
- To follow Him in His seeking (aka this is what it looks like):
 - We must see (and not be afraid of what we see)
 - We must stop (they will not hear without our witness – and they won’t care if it’s not winsome)

Questions for Discussion

1. If you grew up around church, the Zaccheus story is probably familiar (can you still sing the song?). When did it become more than a kid's story to you? Are there other biblical "kid's stories" that have taken on maturity as you interact with them? Which ones?
2. What is your favorite name of God? Why? Why do you think Jesus' favorite title for Himself was Son of Man? (the one exalted from Daniel 7)
3. Which version of "lost" do you see around you most: the Zaccheus kind of lost or the crowd who was disgusted by him? How do those express themselves? Which one frustrates you more?
4. In your most honest moment, do you struggle more with seeing the lost or stopping for them? Why? What does that look like?
5. Read Ephesians 2.1-10. How does Paul describe our lostness? How does he describe God's seeking and saving? How do you see those elements in the Zaccheus story?