

LIFE TOGETHER

AUGUST 2022 EDITION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Let's Celebrate!!

- 8.2 George Smith
8.4 Austin Scott
Rachel Bailey
Annette Koker
8.5 Chad Dickey
Ferrell & Charlene Barnard
8.6 Harper Bailey
Heather Reavill
8.10 Lucas Woodcock
8.12 Carla Sexton
8.13 Abbie Young
8.17 Barb Greene
Ron McCulley
8.20 Tymber Moyer
8.22 Reba McCulley
8.25 Doris Smith
Patty Caudle
Eric & Laura Moyer
8.27 Jason Dailey



Events & Activities

- 8.3 Fusion Wed. Group 8:30a
Wed. Worship & Meal 6pm
8.5 Ladies of Grace 6:00pm
Men's Meeting 6:30 @ Terry K
8.7 Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:30am
8.10 Fusion Wed. Group 8:30a
Wed. Worship & Meal 6pm
8.13 Baking for Bake Sale 6-9pm
8.14 Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:30am
Bake Sale Goodies for sale
Leadership Meeting 4:00pm
8.17 Fusion Wed. Group 8:30a
Wed. Worship & Meal 6pm
8.21 Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:30am
8.24 Fusion Wed. Group 8:30a
Wed. Worship & Meal 6pm
8.28 Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:30am
8.31 Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:30am

Seeking and Saving Zacchaeus: A Wee Little Man

"Zacchaeus was a wee little man, and a wee little man was he."

The story of Jesus seeking and saving Zacchaeus is found in Luke 19:1-10. The song, quoted above and throughout, is sung by children throughout the English-speaking church world. It summarizes the Zacchaeus story, so let's use it to interact with the biblical account. According to Luke 19:3, Zacchaeus was "small of stature." The average height of a Jewish man in that day was about five and a half feet, so he must have been more like five feet – maybe shorter! If he looked forward in the middle of a crowd, he saw lots of necks and shoulders and backs.

But he was not a "spunky, cute little guy." Rather, he was a wicked oppressor of people: "He was a chief tax collector and was rich" (v. 2). Zacchaeus was the boss of the men who collected both legitimate and illegitimate taxes from the populace. Further, he was a Jew working against his countrymen on behalf of the Roman government, making him a hated man. He was therefore a highly unlikely candidate in the eyes of his fellow Jews for what transpired with Jesus.

"He climbed up in a sycamore tree for the Lord he wanted to see."

"[Jesus] entered Jericho and was passing through" (v. 1), and so, "[Zacchaeus] was seeking to see who Jesus was." Why the curiosity? Maybe that was his personality. Or perhaps Zacchaeus had heard stories about other tax collectors that intrigued him. I wonder if he was experiencing conviction of sin and wrestling with guilty feelings, and so wondered if Jesus might have something to say that would relieve him. "So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way" (v. 4).

**"And as the Savior passed that way, he looked up in the tree. And he said,
'Zacchaeus, you come down!'"**

Perhaps at first, Jesus simply stopped. Zacchaeus might have been thinking, "I couldn't have picked a better spot! I wonder if he's going to speak. Maybe this is ground zero for his next miracle!" But then, Jesus "looked up" (v. 5). "Oh no, now everybody is staring at me!" And then Jesus spoke his name: "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down . . ." I remember singing this part of the song as a boy with a tone making Jesus sound almost frustrated with Zacchaeus, like a parent irritated with a child who refuses to get out of bed to come to the table for breakfast. But that does not really fit the scene; Christ's call was loving and full of hope!

"For I'm going to your house today. For I'm going to your house today."

Jesus even says he "must" stay at Zacchaeus' house (v. 5). Why was he so intent on doing this? Verse 10 is the answer: "For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

This was the day of Zacchaeus' deliverance, so Jesus would do what it took to save him – not just go to his house, but ultimately to the cross to die in his place. "So [Zacchaeus] hurried and came down and received him joyfully" (v. 6).

What transpired next? A great transformation. Rising above everyone once again (this time not up a tree, but "he stood"), Zacchaeus declared, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it four-fold" (v. 8). He gave to the poor well beyond the required, and determined to pay back four times the amount of what he had extorted from people.

Here was Jesus' conclusion: "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham" (v. 9). Zacchaeus now shared the faith of Abraham (cf. Rom 4:1-8), evidenced by his transformed life. There were others watching this unfold, and because of Jesus' positive interaction with Zacchaeus, "they all grumbled, 'He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner'" (v. 7). We learn not only about their hearts, but the heart of Jesus: he truly "came to seek and to save the lost" (v. 10), those who know that they are sick and need a physician (5:31-32).

Still Seeking and Saving

The story of the salvation of this wee little man highlights some encouraging truths about the ministry of Jesus toward lost people today.

First, Jesus is still seeking the lost in order to save them. Is the Lord seeking you? Here is one evidence that he is: if you can read English, you have access to a Bible in your language that you can immediately pick up (or click on) and read not just ten verses in Luke 19, but all of Luke, which is all about the Savior who came to seek and to save the lost!

Second, Jesus saves even the worst sinners. Jesus loves to save even the most ungodly who repent and look to him. I am not saying that only notorious sinners need to be saved – we all are enemies of God in need of a Savior! I am just saying that even the worst can be and sometimes have been saved, and that should cause us to say, "If God can save Moses, and David, and the woman at the well, and Zacchaeus, and Paul, he can certainly save anyone, even me!" And then I hope you will immediately join Abraham, and Zacchaeus, and believe in the Lord Jesus.

Third, When Jesus saves the lost, he transforms their lives. J.C. Ryle observes, "Freely pardoned, and raised from death to life, Zacchaeus felt that he could not begin too soon to show whose he was and whom he served. . . . Let us take heed that our souls are saved. Once saved and converted, we shall say, 'What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?' (Ps 116:12)

WEDNESDAY

Starting on August 3rd: Wednesday Night Meal and Worship Service!

Looking for that midweek refresh/refuel for your spirit?

**Make sure and take the time to join us on Wednesdays 6pm
for a new experience!!**

What a wonderful VBS program we enjoyed during July 18th-21st! We planted the Gospel Seed to 54 different children with 36 hardworking volunteers. Thank you so much for investing in our community and doing God's Kingdom work faithfully!! The kids (with help from the adults) had a total offering for the week of \$500. This offering was lovingly sent to the Family of Jaxon Hays.



**PICK UP SOME GOODIES
SUNDAY AUGUST 14TH**

**Our young people will
be baking goodies to raise
funds for future events.
Bake Sale preparation will be
Saturday August 13rd
From 6:00–9:00pm.**

**Please Support our young
people and enjoy some
yummy goodness!!**

“BEING TRANSFORMED”

August 1, 2022

Recently, I have been reading and studying several passages on what it means to be transformed. Primarily because this was the title of my message when I recently went to Liberty Baptist Church in Burnt Prairie, Illinois to fill the pulpit for one Sunday.

I want to share those scripture passages with you.

Romans 12:1-8

I Corinthians 12:27-31

I Corinthians 12:4-5

I Peter 4:10-11

I have been transformed over many years of spiritual and physical growth. It has taken work, time, sacrifice, money, and a deep concern for others. I love this church family and that is important in order to be transformed in the will of God.

Now let's look at I Peter 4:10-11. “Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”

This passage speaks of two major points: Serving and Speaking.

We are to use our gifts we have been blessed with to serve others. If we do not serve others, both in the church family and outside the church, then who are we? Serving others is who we are and is what we do. It is our action to what we believe. Serving others in love is what Christians are suppose to do. And the other key point is Speaking to others. We should speak in a way that it exemplifies who God is. Our words we use shows our personality, our attitude, and our encouragement or the lack of. As we speak, we lift people up. Knowing many of the attributes of who God is we should carefully use our words wisely.

As Randa and I went to Liberty Baptist Church to preach we really enjoyed the opportunity. We enjoyed the Sunday School class we attended. It was an all around good experience. It gave me the opportunity to share some of the ups and downs of growing as a Christian over my life. I have learned many things by trial and error. I have learned many things from others successes and failures. I have learned from the challenges in raising my family. And through it all I am truly thankful God has been with me the entire trip. I have been transformed and the good Lord has been patient with me through it all.

In His Name We Serve,
Randall Shively
Associate Pastor

Speaking as Messengers

1 Thessalonians 2:4 NLT

For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News! Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of the hearts.

We speak about so many things each and every day. Are we speaking about Jesus and how He changed our lives?

Leaders Lead..... (By example)

Maybe we would be more successful reaching people by just speaking about Him?

These things jump out to me about this passage:

- 1. We are messengers*
- 2. Approved by God Himself*
- 3. We have been entrusted*
- 4. Our purpose in life is pleasing God. (Not people)*
- 5. God examines our motives that come from our hearts*

Let's speak to others about Jesus and tell them about how Jesus has changed our lives!

I choose to Lead by Example,

Pastor Steve