

## **“Complete Ownership”**

### **Luke 19: 1 – 10**

The scripture lesson is about a little short man who wanted to see Jesus so he climbed a tree to get above the crowd. This man was a wealthy tax collector and not very well liked by the people of Jericho. Zacchaeus came that day to get a passing glimpse of Jesus, but he found a permanent relationship. Did Jesus just happen to come through Jericho that day? I don't believe so. This was similar to blind Bartimaeus in (Mark 10: 46 – 52) and the Samaritan woman in (John 4). It was no coincidence. Jesus in divine knowledge and wisdom knew he could meet a need on those occasions.

Jesus was passing that day and as he stopped and looked up in the tree and saw Zacchaeus, Jesus invited himself into Zacchaeus' home and Zacchaeus received him gladly. Although it had not yet been written but this exchange between Jesus and Zacchaeus is a perfect example of how (Revelation 3: 20) works which says, “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.” When Jesus stopped he told Zacchaeus to “come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” Jesus didn't say he was going to visit, but he was going to stay. And this at least symbolically would be the result of the relationship he formed with Zacchaeus that day.

After a person receives Jesus into their heart, then what? Does he remain a guest for a time or do we make him a permanent member of our house (heart)? Will you think with me about your heart and the various ‘rooms’ and what those rooms mean to Jesus? Would you be willing to show Jesus through the rooms of your heart?

According to scripture the body of the believer is the temple of the Holy Spirit. How can this be? When we invite Jesus into our heart as Savior, he had promised to send another Comforter to be with us and in us and that is the Holy Spirit. (Ephesians 3: 17a) reminds us “That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith”. Also in (John 14: 23) Jesus said, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teachings. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.” Jesus used the same word here as he used when he told Zachaeus he must ‘stay’ at his house. If you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, he is living in your heart, but does he own your house (heart)? Forty years ago, I found a book entitled, “My Heart, Christ's Home” written by Robert Boyd Munger. It was a best seller and it is still in print. I would encourage you to find it and read it in its entirety. Mr. Munger died February 16, 2001 at the age of ninety. What follows are excerpts from that book. Let's look in the various rooms in our ‘heart’?

Look first in the library, the study. We might say this is the control room of the house. What would we find in this room? Are there things that would draw my attention to Jesus or away from him? Would we find books and magazines that would be offensive to him or would there be a Bible and other things that would cause me to think of him?

Then there is the dining room, the room of our appetites and desires. Suppose Jesus asked what was on the menu for dinner. He will not dine with us on our selfish desires and if you ask him what was wrong, why he is not eating, he would say, “I have food to

eat that you know nothing about.” (John 4:32). If you want really flavorful satisfying food, let him show you how to do his will.

We come to the drawing room although some may call it the lounge. This is a nice room, comfortable, fireplace, over-stuffed chairs, bookcase and sofa. He liked this room and said we should come here often, every morning. For a while I met him there every morning and he read the Word to me and helped me understand the Truths. Then something happened, I stopped coming every morning. One morning I looked in and there he was waiting for me. He had been faithful when I had not. I had forgotten this time is not only important in my spiritual growth, it is also important to him. He desires our fellowship. I need to meet him here every day.

We looked in at the workshop next. The shop was well furnished but I had not been producing anything substantial. He asked, “What are you producing with your life?” Just a few little things, I said. He asked if I wanted to do better. Certainly I would. All right relax and let my Spirit work through you, and let me use your gifts and abilities as I know best. The products you turn out may indeed surprise you.

Next came, the recreation room. I wasn't too anxious to show him this room. Would he approve of my activities and amusements? He wants to go everywhere together, but would he be comfortable where I have been going? Real joy and satisfaction come when we let him transform our recreation so we can go everywhere and do everything together. He is truly the source of happiness.

One day Jesus asked about a place I had not shown him, the hall closet. He said there was a funny odor coming from the closet. I knew what he was talking about because that closet was where I kept things I didn't want others to know about. Those things were personal and I did not want him to see them. I became a bit angry. I told him I would not give him the key. He said he would not stay on this floor with that odor and he began to leave. I realized I did not want to lose his fellowship, so I surrendered the key, but I said I could not clean the closet, I don't have the strength, so you would have to do that. I gave him the key and authorized him to clean it and he threw out the old stuff, cleaned and fixed up that closet in a moment. What a release and victory to have those hidden things out of my life.

Well, that leaves one order of business to finish, transferring the title. It is a daily chore to keep the heart clean. One room gets dusty and I clean it and then another room. I asked him if there was any chance he would take over the whole house and operate it for me. He smiled and said, “Certainly, that is why I came”. Let my strength do it through you and for you. “But”, he said, “I am just a guest, not the owner, the property is not mine.” I ran and got the deed to my heart and signed it over to him. No longer is he a guest, he is the Lord of the house and I am his servant. Have you allowed Jesus to settle down and be at home in your heart as “Lord of all”? Remember Zacchaeus, he did.

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