THE GRACE TO CHANGE

LUKE 19:1-10 / 2-28-21 / AM

I. FIRST, WE LEARN THAT GOD NEVER GIVES UP ON US.

A. Zacchaeus was not a famous person. He was, however, an infamous person because he was a tax collector--1-2.
   1. He was a Jew but he collected taxes for the Romans.
   2. He was not only a tax collector, he was the head tax collector.
   3. He was wealthy.
   4. He was not only short in stature, he was also short in character--3-4.

B. His fellow Jews had given up on Zacchaeus but Jesus never did--5.

II. SECOND, YOUR CHANGE CAN BEGIN TODAY.

A. Zacchaeus' change started immediately--6.

B. Too many people think that change is way down the road.

III. THIRD, CHANGE BEGINS WITH THE FIRST STEP.

A. Zacchaeus took a big first step indicating a change had happened in his life since he met Jesus--8-9

B. What kind of a change did Zacchaeus have?
   1. It was a personal change.
   2. It was a public change.
   3. It was a priority change. "Here and Now"--v.8.
IV. CHANGE SHOULD CONTINUE EVEN AFTER OUR INITIAL CHANGE.

A. Some of us were changed years ago when we met Jesus for ourselves on that road leading to conversion.

B. However, many of us have been stuck on that road never realizing that God wants to continue to change us from inside out.

C. How does God change us from the inside?

1. We’re destined to become like Christ...Romans 8:29 "God predestined us to be conformed to the likeness of his son".

2. We will ultimately be changed when Christ returns...1 John 3:2 "...When Jesus appears we will be like Him..."

3. Why not wait? We must pursue Christlikeness now...Hebrews 12:14. "...Make every effort to be holy..."

4. How? Train to become more like Christ...1 Tim. 4:7 "...Train yourself to be godly..."

5. Train in what? God uses three things....

   a. People (friends and enemies) .Pro. 27:17.

   b. Circumstances ...Romans 8:28.

   c. Spiritual Disciplines... "Things that Jesus practiced."

   d. The Holy Spirit is the power behind all the things God uses to make us more like Christ...2 Cor. 3:18.."We...are being transformed into His likeness ...which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."