



conversations

Title: Conversations— How the Tiny Became Mighty?

Date: July 10, 2022

WORSHIP: Sing one or two songs (either from YouTube, or someone leading worship). If you're in a public place, café or on video messaging, three to four people can share testimonies of answered prayers.

Q: What are you thankful to God about this past week?

Main Text: "Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see Him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, **"Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."** So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." But 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. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:1-10 NIV

Quote: "People grow into the conversations around them." John Maxwell

Leader's Notes:

1. Start and end on time.
2. Facilitate discussions.
3. Give all attendees opportunities to share. Encourage participation.
4. Remind everyone that whatever shared in the group will be kept within the group.
5. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit if there's someone who you can lead to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior and be born again.

WORK: The Challenge & Closing prayer

Q: How can we pray for you today?

Q: Who among your loved ones or friends you think need an encounter with Jesus today? Can you list at least five names?

Please take time in your smaller groups to pray for one another as well as pray for the names of people on your list. If there are specific needs, take time to lift them up to God in prayer as well.

WELCOME:

Intro: Most of us have heard speakers on success warning us to be careful with who we speak with often. We need to be careful with who we spend time with the most. Paul the apostle said, *"Bad company corrupts good character"*. (1 Cor. 15:33)

Ice Breaker:

Q: Name three people in the Bible who are short in stature (height)?

A: Knee-high-Miah (*Nehemiah*), Bildad the Shoe-height (*Bildad The Shuhite, Job 2:11*), Zacchaeus (*"he was short he could not see over the crowd"*).

WORD & Discussion Questions:

What caused the transformation of Zacchaeus? What made this man who was short of stature and social status become mighty in the eyes of Christ?

1. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus

Something miraculous happened when Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was passing by Jericho. A great desire welled up in his heart to see Jesus. He heard unbelievable stories of forgiveness, healing, and deliverance. He also heard that Jesus, a prophet and a man of God even dined with tax collectors and sinners. As followers of Jesus, we need to keep sharing His stories of the love and goodness most especially, the good news people need to hear because, you'll never know who will discover their need of God in their lives!

Q: Would you be able to name anyone who needs to hear your story of God's love and goodness?

2. Jesus wanted to stay with Zacchaeus

"When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, *"Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."* Luke 19:5

Jesus knew the incomparable desire of Zacchaeus to see Him and so He showed His incomparable desire to stay with him. More than anything else, God desires to stay with us and be in a growing relationship with us. In response, by calling Zacchaeus by name and Jesus coming over to his house, he encountered the Son of God! During that time, he felt the loving intention of Jesus to meet him despite of him being a sinner. Jesus reached out to him and showed him the way!

Q: Was there a time in your life you felt like God is distant and too far to reach you and your situation?

3. Zacchaeus was convicted of His need for salvation vv.8-10

The response of Zacchaeus to the presence and love of Christ was what God expects from someone who repents of his sinful lifestyle and surrenders to the Lordship of Christ. In the case of Zacchaeus, he disowned selfishness and greed and promised to give people he cheated four (4) times the amount. Because of this undeniable proof of repentance, Jesus said in v.9 - **"Today salvation has come to this house. For this man too is a child of Abraham."** To Jesus, he was no longer Zacchaeus the corrupt and greedy tax collector, he is now the pure and righteous son of Abraham. He gave the reality of the meaning of his name. Only Jesus can transform us from the inside out.

Q: Are there particular areas in your life (ex. career choices, relationships, personal desires, etc.), that you still need to surrender to the Lordship of Christ?

Conclusion:

Like Zacchaeus, have you encountered the love and forgiveness Jesus offers? If your answer is yes, what changes in lifestyle happened to you that you can share based on your personal encounter with the Lord? If your answer is no, do you wish to know the joy of knowing Jesus and hearing about His love? Do you sense the need to surrender your life to Jesus and be willing to give up everything to Him in order to experience His love and the assurance of knowing that He will never leave you or forsake you?

"When I surrendered myself totally to God, the love of money is gone, the love of a home was gone, the affection of wealth was gone, the love of worldly things was gone. God has become my everything, I found everything in Him, there is nothing else I wanted. And I stayed with Him, a happy man, a very happy man, seeking to ONLY accomplish the things of God." George Muller