

CITYWIDE CHRIST CHURCH
YOUTH SERVICE, Sunday 19th 09, 2022
Theme: CONSIDER YOUR WAYS.

LUKE 19:40

Consider your ways of living, because God has a plan for you.

Consider your ways to life, because the plan of God needs to be caring by you.

Consider your ways of living, because dwelling in sins you are being considered lost.

You are not lost from your parents or friends; You are lost from the reality of God, and who God is.

If Jesus had considered the public opinion about Zacchaeus, he wouldn't bother to stop by. Because this man was the chief tax collector for the Roman, the occupant.

Based on Zacchaeus occupation or his role in their society, he was pretty much a lonely man. No one wanted him around, he was working for the Roman Empire, to collect taxes from his own people, therefore, he was considered as a traitor.

Why think of him as a traitor if he was doing his job.

People knew they had to pay taxes even though it was for the occupant. However, their own kinsman the tax collector will collect extra for themselves. Tax collectors were considered traitors, and in the New Testament tax collectors were mentioned alongside prostitutes and sinners.

In the book of **Matthew 11:19** , and **21:31**, we see how the bible talking of the tax collectors and the prostitutes. They are being put in one category . And in the **Luke 15:1**, the bible says, now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus, But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered ,this man welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Zacchaeus would have possibly heard about Jesus, they called him many names: some says he was the devil; some say his blasphemmer, some called him a fanaddict, some called him prophet, imposter and many say a son of God.

Naturally Zacchaeus had a curiosity to see Jesus, but he had many obstacles to see Jesus because of the crowd. Zaccheaus desperation caused him to do something a bit below his dignity, since he was short in stature. He was willing to endure some public mockery or ridicule to see Jesus.

This also proved that he was a lonely man, regardless being a rich chief tax collector. In life be careful How, when and while climbing the ladder of success.

Like Zachaeus, many of you would like to see Jesus but you are facing many obstacles and what are they:

1. **Pride**: God resist the pride. And the bible says pride keeps mores people away from God than any other sin.

Prov .12:2, When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

2. **Idolatry**: one of the sins that keep people away from God. And our idolatry is very unique these days. We worship yourself; we worship man and whether we realizer it or not, we are worshipping things

created by man: materialism, Tv shows, movie, luxury life, automobile, sex and many more.

Sexe have become the goddess just like in ancient times.

1 jhon 5:21, Dear children, keep yourselves from idols.

1 corinthians 10:14, Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry.

3. Word: Supposed that you have all in life, the wealth, educations, oil, gold, diamonds, and all the precious minerals in the planet, you had it all, and then you lost your soul. It wouldn't be worth it, and yet you are losing your soul just for a little bit pleasure of the world.

This doesn't mean that you should not have money, no where in the bible God condemned a worthy man, unless he misses using it or he got it the wrong way, then his condemned.

The bible says, come out of them and be separated.

James 4:4, Friendship with the world means enmity against God, therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

The world the bible is talking here is the cosmos: the world systems, dominated by evil is part of the world system in which we live.

Friendship with the world means enmity with God. And God says, therefore, come out among them and be separate, says the lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.

World in the New Testament means: The relationship that people have with their social environment. We have to be separated with the evil of this world. To live your life according to the norms of this world , you will be squeeze by the and perished . The world will be come endurance to you to come to Jesus.

Because the bible says, you have to give away the wrong things that are in the world: - last, -prejudice, gride, -hate, and materialism part of the world that is wrong, you have to turn from.

4. Other obstacles, are the secret sins that no body know about. your friends and love one doesn't know about them. Here is Zacchaeus says, look Lord, if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.

How many are there right now cover with plenty of secret sins thinking no body knows about knows about them. God knows and he know everything in details.

19:7 some people in the crowd were probably hoping that Jesus will be their guest for their own dinner.

But they complained, why had he chosen to visit with that sinner instead?

Because sinners were the reason, he had come in the first place.

The same way so called Christian think Jesus come for them period. No, he come for the sinners and you are one of them, just been save by grace therefore, be humble with others, (sinners).

5. Self righteousness is also another thing or obstacles that keeps us aways from God. thinking was good, were not like others. But in reality, we are sinning and breaking God's laws, that keep us from the Lord, self righteousness.

Luke 18:10-14

The calling of Zacchaeus by Jesus was personal. probably Zacchaeus was the least to be expected to have Jesus's attention. The unpopular one, the traitor, the sinner, the Lonely one, yet he received a personal call

from Jesus. Can you imagine the reaction of the church's leaders? The worse sinner in town being call by his name.

The bible says "He is the good shepherd and He knows is sheep by name". In Genesis, God came to the garden and called Adam, where are you? And later He called Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Gedeon, Samuel, David, Salomon, Jeremy, Isacc, Daniel, Ezeckiel, God called them all by name. And then when the Lord Jesus come, He called all his disciples by their name: Simon peter, Andrew, James, John, and Mattew another taxes collector like Zacchaeus .and in Damascus Road he called Saul, Saul, Saul why are you persecuted me? And He is calling you by your name. what is your name? God is calling!! He knows about you, he is calling you by your name, and God is saying set up come to me.

You know you need me to help you, to fix you, to change you, to give you a new life, life in abundance.

Jesus looks up and says Zacchaeus come, come quickly, there is no time to waste come, hurry up! And this the Lord is saying to you right now, come to me, you did your part to come, you did your part to climb the tree, and know come down. you did your part to come to church regardless of your hidden secret sins. Now come, don't be shame come, receive me publically before men and I will testify about you to my father. Come, come! No where does the bible promised that you will be save tomorrow, so come now, God is calling you. There maybe no tomorrow for you, so come now, is your personal call.

The calling of Zacchaeus was a successful call, because Zacchaeus did make to Jesus. Probably he didn't wait to climb down the tree, He jump! In Luke 18: 18-25 and Mattew 19:16-24 they both talk about the rich man who couldn't follow Jesus due to his possessions and wealth. Even though, he was bragging about what he has done. Just like most Christians who have been around for so long.

He come Zacchaeus didn't want to lose the opportunity.

He welcomed Jesus in the house and fellowship with him. Therefore, I should inform you that receiving Jesus comes with a price tag of repentance.

Repentance doesn't simply say, "I'm sorry", it makes changes for wrong doing. Zacchaeus's onwards actions were testimony of an inward transformation.

Matthew was a taxes collector, may be Jesus took him with him to Zacchaeus's house, maybe he had a conversation with him like yeah! I was doing the something like you when Jesus called me, and my life never be the same, I have never looked back.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, what are your testimony about your calling, are you acting like you were born saint? Please support and sustain those who are new in Christ that we are serving.

Zacchaeus come openly with boldness he repents from his sins and sinful life. And joyfully received Christ. He didn't wait to understand or know everything about Jesus, but he responded to the call.

Today Jesus is calling you, and their accusing him of eating with the sinners. Yes, Jesus come for people like you and I. I'm a sinner, and I'm standing here by grace. I am saved by grace, and by grace I will be in heaven, by grace I will see the Lord.

All is by grace like today, you will be saved by his grace, just respond to his call, Jesus is calling you, consider your way. Tomorrow be long to God and don't take a chance to leave this place if you have been convicted by this message?

God is calling you!

Amen.

