



## April 6 – Righteousness & Mercy

Righteousness and Mercy – two big “church words” that are often tossed about – but also often misunderstood. Do you know the difference between the two? Does it even matter for life today? Join us this weekend as we delve into the story of Zacchaeus and discover for ourselves just what these words mean and how they DO have a lot to do with life today!

### Scripture:

#### Titus 3:4-8 NLT

When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. <sup>6</sup> He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. <sup>7</sup> Because of his grace he made us right in his sight and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life. <sup>8</sup> This is a trustworthy saying, and I want you to insist on these teachings so that all who trust in God will devote themselves to doing good. These teachings are good and beneficial for everyone.

#### Luke 19:1-10 NLT

Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. <sup>2</sup> There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. <sup>3</sup> He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. <sup>4</sup> So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. “Zacchaeus!” he said. “Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.” <sup>6</sup> Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. <sup>7</sup> But the people were displeased. “He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,” they grumbled. <sup>8</sup> Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, “I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!” <sup>9</sup> Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”

### Questions:

- As the story of Zacchaeus starts out – do you label him in some way? What label do you give him? How does it change as the story goes on?
- Have you ever labeled someone, only to find out later the label you placed on them was wrong? Or have you been labeled wrongly? How does it feel?
- This week take note of when you place a label on someone – is it positive or negative? And do you really know enough about the inner person to put that label on them? Try letting go of the labels and seeing the child/person God loves.

### Reading for the Week:

**Monday:** 2 Samuel 24:14

**Tuesday:** 2 Chronicles 30:9

**Wednesday:** Psalm 23:6

**Thursday:** Jeremiah 3:12

**Friday:** Daniel 2:17-19