



## **Sermon Notes: "God Never Gives Up"**

Luke 19:1-10; Acts 1:1-15

7.20.25

### **ECC's Focus:**

- Go LIVE – Discipleship
- Go LEAD - The Next Generation.
- GO LOVE – Evangelism

**The Urgency / Concern:** The Cause for the Lost is becoming a lost cause.

### **A Lesson from Jesus on Evangelism (Luke 19:1-10):**

People need to feel they belong before they believe.

### **Two Fallacies about Evangelism in the Church:**

1. Church is only for Christians.
  - **Biblical Response:** Since Jesus' mission was to seek and save the lost, our mission should echo that in all areas of life, including Sunday mornings.
2. Only "Evangelists" are called to Share the Gospel.
  - **Biblical Response:** Evangelists don't do all the evangelism - they equip others to do evangelism.

---

### **So What?**

- Jesus said He would empower you to do gospel sharing work.
- Who has God strategically placed in front of me that no one else can reach?

**For Study, Reflection, Discussion:**

1. Review the sermon notes from Sunday. Was there a particular point that stuck with you? *What* was it and *why* did it resonate with you?

**READ: Luke 19:1-10; Acts 1:1-15**

2. Think about a time when you felt like an outsider looking in (new job, new school, new community). What helped you feel like you belonged? How does that connect to Zacchaeus' experience in the tree?
3. In Luke 19:1-10, Jesus does three things that shocked the crowd: He calls Zacchaeus by name, invites himself to dinner, and defends him publicly. Which of these three actions do you think was most radical for that culture, and why? How might we apply this today?
4. Jesus said he would empower you to do gospel sharing work (Acts 1:8). The pastor asked: 'Who has God strategically placed in front of me that no one else can reach?' Take a moment to think - who comes to mind? What makes reaching them uniquely yours?
5. 'The sermon mentioned two fallacies: 'Church is only for Christians' and 'Only evangelists share the Gospel.' Which of these mindsets do you struggle with more personally? How have you seen these attitudes affect our church or community?
6. The crowd was 'perfectly content keeping Zacchaeus on the outside.' Who is your 'Zacchaeus' in Wallowa County - someone you've been comfortable keeping at arm's length? What would it look like to 'go to them' instead of waiting for them to come to church?

**Specific Action Step:**

**This week:** Take the bookmark handed out Sunday and really spend some time praying and thinking about the names to put on this list. Keep asking the question: Who has God strategically placed in front of me that no one else can reach?

**Don't Forget:**

- Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>: Church Yard Sale
- Aug 31<sup>st</sup> : Church at the Lake

**Prayer:**

Lord Jesus,  
Help us see people the way You see people. Give us Your heart for those who are far from You. Open our eyes to see the Zacchaeus in our community - not as problems to avoid, but as people You love deeply. Help us be the church that goes to them instead of waiting for them to come to us.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.