

“Then Christ will make His home in your hearts as you trust Him” - Ephesians 3:17

How does one actually ‘prepare room’ for Jesus?

From the life of a man named Zacchaeus:

1) Aspiration

Luke 19:1-4 (NLT) - Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. ² There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. ³ He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.

2) Invitation

Luke 19:5-7 (NLT) - ⁵ 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.” ⁶ Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. ⁷ But the people were displeased. “He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,” they grumbled.

3) Acclimation

Luke 19:8-10 (NLT) - 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!” ⁹ Jesus responded, “Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man^[a] came to seek and save those who are lost.”

Study Guide

1. Familiarize yourself with the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10. Read it and get a sense of the story and the lives involved. What do you see and feel?

2. Take a look at the notes from Sunday’s message: take special note of the 3 points that were applied to Zacchaeus’ life. Aspiration, Invitation and Acclimation.
Where do you see yourself in his story?

3. Where you are on your journey does not have to be permanent—that’s the good news!
How do you see yourself embracing life with Jesus to a deeper degree?

4. As Christmas approaches, how do you play to make room for Jesus? What are some practical things that you can do to see that realistically happen?

5. As part of your devotions this week re-read Ephesians 3:14-19; read it slowly and deliberately. Ponder again verse 17; commit to finding a way to prepare Him room’.

6. Optional: Ask someone who is likely to give you a gift for a copy of My Heart—Christ’s Home, by Robert Boyd Munger. It’s a perfect size for your Christmas stocking!