

Chosen to Receive and Obey (Luke 19:1-10)

By Jared C. Wilson (from the ESV Men's Devotional Bible)

If you look carefully, you will see the outline of the Christian life in this story of the wee little man named Zacchaeus. It begins, as our spiritual journeys with Christ often do, with Zacchaeus considering Jesus. He has gone to “take a look” at this man whom many are worshiping and following. Before we are saved, we tend to do the same. We “take a look” at Jesus. What did he say? What did he do? Are the things Christians believe about him true? If we're really interested, we will get as close a look as we can, climbing our own sycamore trees by going to church, reading books, talking with Christian friends, and so on.

But salvation begins not when we “take a look” at Jesus but when Jesus takes hold of us. Jesus spots Zacchaeus and says, “I see you, little man. Come on down; I'm going to come to your house.” If Jesus had not done this, would Zacchaeus have “received him joyfully”? ([Luke 19:6](#)). Maybe. Maybe not. In any event, we see here that the life of discipleship begins not when we choose Jesus but when Jesus chooses us ([John 15:16](#)). But this doesn't mean we have no part to play—oh, no!

When Christ calls his spiritual siblings, the call has great effect. We worship Christ when we finally see him for who he truly is. We're no longer “considering” Jesus, but we have gotten some glimpse of his glory, and it has changed us ([2 Cor. 3:18](#)). We hear the good news, and it strikes us for the first time as good news! It strikes us as good news that is for us. So, like Zacchaeus, we receive Jesus gladly. He is coming to receive us, and so we receive him. He is entering our heart, so we rejoice at the bigness of his own heart, that the very God of the Universe would choose a man of such small stature to be his friend, to be his brother! What a great joy.

But we do not stop there. No, the disciple of Jesus, seeing the great satisfying joy there is to be had in him alone, is willing to give up whatever is required. Having Christ, we have all. So we can consider everything else a loss ([Phil. 3:7](#)). Zacchaeus immediately begins giving back what he has sinfully taken, and more besides.

When Jesus saves a man, he saves him into a life of joy and obedience, of joyful obedience.



23 December 2018 | Service Times: 9am & 11am

Welcome, we're glad you're here!

We are a church family committed to following Jesus Christ as Lord. We do this by getting to know him through his living Word, the Bible, which is why the sermon is the key part of our Sunday services. Find out more about us at www.slechurch.org.au.

This Week:

Encounters with Jesus— A Little Man Up a Big Tree

When the Son of Man seeks and saves the impossibly lost, they respond with joy, repentance, and generosity.

by Pastor Steven Tran

Next Tuesday: (Christmas) Matthew 2:1-23



Today's Service

Welcome and Singing	Hark the Herald O Come Emmanuel You Alone can Rescue
Holy Communion	
Offering	
Community News	
Bible Reading	Luke 18:18-30, Luke 19:1-10
Sermon	By Pastor Steven Tran
Song of Response	This Life I Live

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Check out slechurch.org.au/groups to find a group that you can join.

Say hello

Join us for morning tea at 10:30am.
We'd love to have a chat and get to know you better.

Our Pastors

PASTOR BEN HO

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PASTOR STEVEN TRAN

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Financial Update

Last Week	\$3,193
Weekly Required	\$5,520
Shortfall 2018	\$0.00

Giving by Electronic Funds Transfer

A/C Name: SLE Church
Bank: National Australia Bank
BSB: 084-424
A/C No: 396558544

SLE Church is a branch church of Chinese Christian Church Brisbane

Prayer Points

PRAISE GOD FOR THE ENCOUNTERS

with Jesus that we have seen so far. Praise God that in these encounters we see the magnificence and wonder of Jesus. Praise God that in these encounters we see in part what makes Jesus worthy of all our praise and worship!

PRAY FOR OPENNESS IN OUR HEARTS

as we read these stories of Jesus engaging with others—pray that Jesus would meet us personally through these stories as well. Pray that we would respond with the faith, joy, astonishment and wonder that characterizes all of these stories. And pray that we would respond this way the whole of our lives.

PRAISE GOD FOR THE PEACE that has entered our world in the first coming of Jesus. Pray that this peace would saturate our lives as we live to show our friends and family that this world is not what we are living for. Pray that the peace won by Jesus in the gospel would be wonderful news ever on our lips ready to be told.

PRAY FOR SAFETY for all our friends, family, and SLEers who will be travelling interstate and overseas in the coming weeks. Pray for restful times with friends and family, rejoicing together, and pray for safe returns to home.

PRAY FOR OUR REST over this Christmas -New Year holiday period. Pray that we would rest well, using this time to recoup physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Pray that we would be rested to not only return to work well, but also ready and able to serve.

Community News

IGNITE TRAINING CONFERENCE 2019 | 14-18 JANUARY

Head to <https://ignitetrainingconference.com/> for registration and conference details.

SERVICE TIME CHANGES ETC OVER DECEMBER–JANUARY

Please note that from 16 December to 27 January, the 11:30am service at the South Hall will be changed to 11am service at the North Hall.

Please note that from 9 December to 27 January, for both 9am service and the 11:30/11am service will have the overflow available at the White Door Room.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE INFORMATION

Christmas Day service will happen on 25 December, 9am. Do start thinking about who you may like to invite to the service. Please do bring a plate to share at morning tea.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

Our yearly Christmas lunch is open to those who haven't got any family or plans. It will begin at 12:00pm (arrive 11:30am onwards), and it will be held at Mervin and Katherine's home (30 Chapel Hill Rd, Chapel Hill). RSVP to Mervin and Kat!

Serving

	Today	Christmas
Chair	Mervin	Simeon
Preach	Ps Steven	Ps Steven
Bible Read	Winston <i>Ps Steven</i>	Simeon
M.Tea	Winnie Tao Matt	Everyone bring a plate to share
Wash Up	SOS Central	SOS Dan
Welcome	Ken Steph Dan <i>Marilyn</i> <i>Sarah</i> <i>Jessica</i> <i>Joy</i>	Ken Steph Dan Richard
Stewards	Simeon Richard <i>Helen</i> <i>Josh</i> <i>Josiah</i>	Richard <i>Helen</i> <i>Josh</i> <i>Josiah</i>
Piano	Dan Lowe	Liesl
Guitar	Mark	Mark
Bass	Chuan Yuan	Chuan Yuan
Drums	Marcus	Marcus
Vocal	Sarah	Shaun
PA	William <i>Matt</i>	Li Wei

A Little Man Up A Big Tree [Luke 19:1-10]

"Shalom, my name is Zacchaeus..."

The day we met...

Life before hearing about Jesus

Hearing about Jesus

Following Jesus