

The Mission of Jesus: Seek and Save the Lost

February 125^h 2024

Sermon – Sunday, February 25, 2024 – “The Mission of Jesus: Seek and Save the Lost”

1) We pursue just as we are pursued

- Zacchaeus pursued Jesus... “wanted to see who Jesus was...”
- Zacchaeus blew past the obstacles in his way by climbing a tree (what obstacles do you face as you pursue Jesus?)
- Jesus pursued Zacchaeus when the opportunity came... he did not enter Jericho looking for Zacchaeus... he simply responded to the opportunity that the Spirit gave Him
- The Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of those who are lost, many do not respond to His work, many are not aware of it, and some come to see it and respond
- So we pursue Jesus, Jesus pursues us, and Jesus pursues the lost, so we must also pursue the lost, but not aggressively, rather, we respond in faith to the opportunities the Lord gives us

2) Interruptions are opportunities

- Jesus was on his way from somewhere, to somewhere, and this story is an interruption to the journey
- Jesus capitalized on the interruption to reach and save Zacchaeus
- There are other examples of Jesus being interrupted and taking advantage of it as a “God opportunity”
 - On his way to heal the daughter of Jairus in Mark 5, Jesus is interrupted by the woman who had a bleeding condition for 12 years

- How many opportunities are missed because we are not paying attention, or because we are annoyed that following Jesus means being constantly interrupted

3) Reaching means investing and investing is costly

- Reaching people costs time – Jesus took the time to be with Zacchaeus and all his friends
- Reaching people can cost reputation – Jesus was scrutinized for being with tax collectors and sinners
 - Being in a drug house, or a bar (Story of Tyler and his friends)
- Reaching people is messy
 - Brings up complicated issues of sin, forgiveness, change, growth, and so many more
 - Challenges religious people (A.B. Simpson and his church in New York)

Jesus Questions:

- a) Am I allowing myself to be pursued by Jesus so I can pursue others?
- b) Am I willing to invest in the people God has placed in my life?
- c) Am I willing to be uncomfortable and sacrifice time, resources, and reputation to reach the lost?