

# The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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## LESSONS FROM A MAN OF LITTLE STATURE

Larry R. Ping II

Most of us can recall, when young, singing a song about a “Wee Little Man.” The lyrics are...

*“Zaccheus was a  
wee, little man,  
And a wee, little man was he.  
He climbed up in a  
sycamore tree,  
For the Lord he wanted to see.*

*And as the Savior  
came that way,  
He looked up in the tree,  
And he said, ‘Zaccheus, you  
come down from there,’  
For I’m going to your  
house today.  
For I’m going to your  
house today.”*

As adults, we tend to forget about these Bible accounts, relegating them to children-only stories. But not so! Consider these important lessons about this man of little stature.

**1) Zacchaeus Overcame His Position To See Jesus.** The Bible reports he was, “chief among the publicans” (Lk. 19:2). A publican was a tax-collector.

He was a well-known man in Jericho, no doubt. By virtue of his profession, he was likely unliked by most residents. Yet, he forgot all of these things when he sought to see Jesus. Most powerful men see no need for Jesus or obedience to Him. For instance, neither Felix (Acts 24:25) nor Agrippa (Acts 26:28) saw any reason to commit themselves to the Lord. However, there are those who overlook their position and see the necessity of Christ, like Zaccheus, and a “deputy” who “believed” in Acts 13:12. As we continue to look for others to teach, let us not overlook someone simply because of their position, for they may be like Zaccheus!

**2) Zacchaeus Overcame His Riches To See Jesus.** The Bible declares, “he was rich” referring to Zacchaeus. Whether he was rich as a result of honest, or dishonest gain is not relevant. He wanted to see Jesus so badly, he thought nothing of the fact of his riches, or that others would see a rich man wanting to see Jesus. The

Bible abundantly warns about riches. Paul wrote, “For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows” (I Tim. 6:10). Later, he warned, “Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy” (I Tim. 6:17). Solomon added, “Riches profit not in the day of wrath” (Prov. 11:14) and “He that trusteth in his riches shall fall” (Prov. 11:28). As we continue to look for others to teach, do not dismiss someone simply because they are rich!

**3) Zacchaeus Overcame The Crowd To See Jesus.** The Word of God proclaims Zacchaeus “sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature” (Lk. 19:3). The press in this text indicates the crowd which had gathered at the sight of the Lord. Zacchaeus could have easily given up, letting

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the company around him keep him from his goal of seeing Jesus. But he did not! We need to be careful about letting the crowd keep us from doing those things which are good and right. Paul cautioned, “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners” (I Cor. 15:33). Solomon reminded, “He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed” (Prov. 13:20). Peter learned this lesson the hard way when he attempted to follow Jesus “afar off” (Matt. 26:58). Not long after, he denied Jesus three times as he involved himself in the wrong crowd (Matt. 26:69-75). Let us be careful to maintain good company as we try to follow Jesus, and not let the crowd overcome us.

#### 4) Zacchaeus

**Overcame A Physical Disadvantage To See Jesus.** God’s Word announces Zacchaeus “was little of stature” (Lk. 19:3). We know not how short this man was, but he was short enough he could not see Jesus because of

the crowd. He could have simply given up because of this physical hindrance, but he did not let it! It could be easy for us to let some sort of physical difficulty keep us from serving the Lord. Difficulties such as sickness, disease, or other physical things over which we have no control. We must follow the Lord’s command and “seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matt. 6:33). We must be as the good king Hezekiah who “in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered” (II Chron. 31:21). Overcome whatever physical problem you might have, do not let it overcome you.

#### 5) Zacchaeus

**Overcame His Pride To See Jesus.** The Holy Text iterates, “And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way” (Lk. 19:4). Imagine seeing a rich, prominent business-man who

is short-statured running down the street as fast as he can, climbing up a tree so he can see Jesus. Could it have been folks there that day were making fun of, or belittling Zacchaeus? Likely. Did he let that stop him? In no way. Often, pride keeps people from doing things which are very important. The Ethiopian treasurer, in Acts 8:30-36, was humble enough to pose what amounts to quite simple, but important queries. Pride could have kept him back from doing so. Zacchaeus could have let what others thought about him keep him from seeing Jesus, but he did not. The wise man uttered, “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” (Prov. 16:18). The apostle warned, “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (I Cor. 10:12). May we give little thought to what others think about our search for Jesus, and focus upon God, to whom we owe our allegiance and obedience (Gal. 1:10).

Jesus will come. Will He find us diligently watching for Him? Will He find us willing to welcome Him?

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## MEETING TIMES (EST)

**SUNDAY**  
Bible Study – 10:00 am  
Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
Bible Study – 7:00 pm