

“I Came to Seek and Save that which was Lost”

Luke 19:1-10

It's Advent! Advent is the season leading up to Christmas in which we remember Jesus' coming into the world as a man and in which we also look forward with anticipation to His second coming. This year as we ponder Jesus' coming to earth we are considering four of Jesus' own statements about why He came to earth. Understanding these statements is important because it will help us better understand what Jesus wants to do in each one of our lives as well as what our discipleship looks like.

Opening Question: Have you ever been lost? If so, what was that experience like?

Read Luke 19:1-10

1. How does Luke describe Zacchaeus?
2. What is significant about Zacchaeus being a chief tax collector?
3. Who are the “they” that grumble about Jesus going to be a guest at Zacchaeus' house (v. 7)? And what does their grumbling reveal about them?
4. What do we learn about Jesus from this passage?
5. What does it mean that one is “lost” (v. 10)?

Steve said:

There are many aspects of participating with Jesus in His mission of seeking and saving that which is lost. And so I want us to think specifically about whether or not we really “buy” the idea, “As I follow Jesus, I am called to notice, befriend, and talk with people who are lost.” Do you really believe that Jesus is seeking and saving the lost **through you**? Do you really believe that?

6. Do we really “buy” this idea? And if we do, what does that mean for us?

Steve said:

I want to point out that even if you know Jesus, there may be an area of your life that is lost - it's not where it should be and you can't get it where it should be. It may be a relationship that is lost (with a spouse, a friend, a family member, another person in the church). It may be an area of your life in which there's habitual sin or disobedience. It may be a circumstance that's far beyond your control. There is a sense in which Jesus is still seeking and saving such specific areas of our lives. He hasn't abandoned us to lostness in any area of our lives. Jesus is still pursuing us and wants to bring salvation to every area of our lives. This is sometimes called “progressive sanctification.” Through the Holy Spirit, God and Jesus are pursuing us so that we might be holy/found in every area of our lives.

7. Are there any areas of your life that are still lost (i.e. it's not where it should be and you can't get it where it should be)?

8. How does it affect you to know that Jesus is still pursuing you and that he wants to bring salvation to every area of your life?