

"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 consider Jesus' coming to earth we are focusing on four of Jesus' own statements about why He came to earth. Understanding these statements will help us better understand what Jesus wants to do in each of our lives as well as what our discipleship looks like. Today, we start by looking at Jesus' statement that he came to seek and to save that which was lost.

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

Read Luke 19:1-10

1. How does Luke describe Zaccheus?
2. What is significant about Zaccheus being a chief tax collector?
3. Who are the "they" that grumble about Jesus going to be a guest at Zaccheus' house (v. 7)? And what does their grumbling reveal about them?
4. Jesus said that he came to seek and to save that which was lost (v. 10). What does it mean that one is "lost"?
5. What things did Jesus do in this passage to seek out the lost?

6. What do we learn about Jesus from this passage?

Steve said:

Just like Jesus noticed that there was a tax collector up in the tree, we are supposed to **notice** people who are out of place. . . people who might not even realize they are lost. Just like Jesus we are supposed to **befriend** people who are lost. Jesus wasn't merely "friendly" to people who were lost; Jesus went to their houses and enjoyed table fellowship with them (which communicates acceptance and relationship). And just like Jesus, we are supposed to be **full of grace and truth** (John 1:14) in our relationship with people who are lost. I realize that this is a huge topic; 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?

7. Do you really "buy" this idea that God wants to use you to help seek and save the lost? Explain.

8. What might it look like in your life to actually "notice, befriend, and talk with people who are lost"?

9. Take a moment right now and write down the names of 2 or 3 people who don't know Jesus for whom you can begin praying.

10. What are a couple of ways that you can befriend and talk with them?