

NOVEMBER 19, 2019  
Tuesday of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Week in OT  
Luke 19: 1-10

WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE JESUS

If the Lord was here today and asked us to stay in our home, what would be our reaction? Would we be excited or would we have a lot of reasons not to accept Him? Are we ready to let Him in?

Every day, Jesus often dropped-in at unforeseen moments and was even willing to visit the undesirable people like the poor, the outcast, and public sinners. In our gospel, He visited Zacchaeus, the tax collector who was despised and unwelcome because he charged people with high interest and obtained unaffordable amounts of money that made him wealthy at the expense of others.

But Jesus sees what is inside, what potential people have, and He saw that too, in Zacchaeus. The Lord sees not what is external but what is internal. He sees the goodness, the humility and willingness of Zacchaeus to change, to love and be loved. Jesus Christ gives the loving attention to this lowly and sinful man and the effect on him is great: "Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possession, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much."<sup>1</sup>

My brothers and sisters let us all climb the sycamore tree, the sign of a humble heart ready to ask forgiveness, the willingness to meet Jesus, and a disposition to accept the Lord in our lives. Zacchaeus is teaching us: his change of heart, his own metanoia, caused a change of life, a change that affected the whole community not only himself. Jesus Christ is always ready and invites us to make His home with each one of us. Are we ready to accept Him and make room for Him in our heart and in every area of our lives?

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<sup>1</sup> Luke 19:8 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA