



Homes of H.O.P.E. Prayer and Study Guide 7/29
Based on sermon: “Undignified”
Preached July 25, 2009

1. Read Luke 19:1-10. How does the fact that this incident takes place during Jesus’ final journey to Jerusalem matter to the storyline?
2. There are three main “characters” in this story. Name them. What is in the hearts of each?
3. Zacchaeus’ name comes from the Hebrew *Zakkai*, which means “pure.” Contrast Zacchaeus’ life to this point with his name.
4. Verses 2 and 3 reveal four things about Zacchaeus—his occupation, his financial status, his height, and _____. Which of these was most important? Why?
5. Discuss the following statement: *A new life must begin with a new vision of what can be. You can’t move forward in life if you’re always looking backwards. You’ve got to stop looking at your past and present failures and start seeing Jesus.* What does that mean in practical terms? How do you do this in real life?
6. Verse 3 presents a problem. What is it? Share how the enemy uses “the crowd” to block people’s view of Jesus. Have people ever gotten in your way of seeing Jesus? Share examples.
7. “When your goal is to see Jesus, try not to focus on the crowd.” How do you do this in real life?
8. What’s the one thing Zacchaeus couldn’t blame for? How does Zacchaeus’ problem compare with our problem? (See Romans 3:23.) Does God condemn us for our “birth defect?” Explain.
9. Were hypocrites, legalists, and politically-motivated people a problem in Jesus’ day? Read verse 10 to discover Jesus’ mission and passion.
10. Consider this: “Jesus had a mission and a passion that was not deterred by others. His mission was to ‘seek and to save’ and His passion was ‘the lost.’ And He let nothing—not even death itself—distract or discourage Him from the goal.”
Discuss how having the same mission and passion of Jesus would help us deal with the hypocrites, etc. in the church.
11. *The greatest obstacle on the way to seeing Jesus is likely the hypocrite you face each day in the mirror!* Agree or disagree? Explain.
10. “Jesus’ passion is short people.” What does this mean in spiritual terms? What does this mean to you personally?
11. What did Zacchaeus do about his problem that was totally undignified? (See verse 4.)

12. Discuss this statement: *Sometimes you have to do whatever it takes to get above the things that block Jesus from view!* What does this mean in practical terms? Have you ever been willing to appear “undignified” for Jesus? (Read 1 Cor. 1:18 and 1 Cor. 4:9-13, then share experiences.)
13. How was Jesus “undignified” for us?
14. Discuss the following: “For Zacchaeus, a tree was needed to help him see Jesus and it still takes a tree for us to see the Savior.” What is this talking about?
15. Read verse 5. What are the implications of Jesus’ insistence of “staying” with Zacchaeus?
16. Explain the reaction of the crowd in verse 7. How is their accusation against Zacchaeus ironic?
17. Read verse 8. Notice that Zacchaeus sought to make immediate restitution for his crimes even though Jesus hadn’t demanded it. Jesus’ acceptance of Zacchaeus came *before* his reformation. What does this tell us about God, grace and repentance?
18. In light of the above, discuss this statement: “No repentance is genuine that does not work reformation” (*Desire of Ages*, 555).
19. Jesus called Zacchaeus a “Son of Abraham” in verse 9. What did this mean to those who heard this? What did this mean to Zacchaeus? (Compare with Luke 13:10-17.) Who are true “sons of Abraham today? (See Gal. 3:29.)
20. What has God said to you personally through this story? Conclude by reviewing Jesus’ mission and passion in verse 10.