

March 04, 2018

Series: Restored

Sermon Title: *Who Left this Mess?*

Main Scripture:

Luke 19:1-10 (NRSV)

¹He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ²A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” ⁶So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” ⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” ⁹Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

The Main Idea:

Finding grace in the mess

Preventing PROBLEMS AND GRACE

Luke 19:1-3 (NRSV) ¹He (Jesus) entered Jericho and was passing through it. ²A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a *CHIEF TAX COLLECTOR* and was *RICH*. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the *CROWD* he could not, because he was *SHORT* in stature.

The Mission of Clearbranch UMC is
to ENGAGE people through relational ministry,
to EQUIP disciples for Christ and
to EMPLOY their gifts through missions.

Preparation for a **BLESSING**

Luke 19:4-7 (NRSV) ⁴So he *RAN AHEAD* and *CLIMBED A SYCAMORE TREE* to see him, because he was going to *PASS THAT WAY*. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” ⁶So he hurried down and was *HAPPY TO WELCOME HIM*. ⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.”

Prepared to **BE A BLESSING**

Luke 19:8-10 (NRSV) ⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of *MY POSSESSIONS*, Lord, I will *GIVE TO THE POOR*; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will *PAY BACK FOUR TIMES* as much.” ⁹Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man *CAME TO SEEK* out and to *SAVE THE LOST*.”

Genesis 12:2 (NRSV) ²I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

Genesis 18:18 (NRSV) ¹⁸Seeing that Abraham shall become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him.

Challenge Questions:

Where has God's grace "run ahead" to reach me before I knew to seek and love Him back?

What risks will I take to see Jesus more clearly?

What messes might God be seeking to transform in me?

Who is God seeking to love and bless through my transformed life?

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The Vision of Clearbranch UMC is Transformed Lives offering the Transforming Love of Christ.