

# Staying With Zacchaeus

**Leader:** Today's gospel reminds us that the reason Jesus came into the world was to seek and find those who have lost their way to God.

**Narrator:** Jesus and his disciples were in the city of Jericho, the hometown of Zacchaeus, a very rich tax collector. Zacchaeus was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but since he was so short in height he couldn't see over the crowd of people who had lined the way.

**Zacchaeus:** They said Jesus is coming this way. I won't be able to see him because I'm so short. I know! I'll climb that sycamore tree so I can get a good view of him.

**Narrator:** When Jesus noticed Zacchaeus in the tree, he stopped and said to him,

**Jesus: Zacchaeus, come down. I'm going to stay at your house today.**

**Zacchaeus (hurrying down the tree):** Jesus! I am so pleased that you will stay with me. Please, come!

**Narrator:** Everyone complained when they saw what was happening.

**First Person:** He is going to a sinner's house!

**Second Person:** Why would he chose to go with a tax collector, a sinner?

**Narrator:** Zacchaeus heard what they were saying about him. So he said to Jesus,

**Zacchaeus:** Lord, I will give half of my property to the poor. If I have cheated anyone, I will pay them back four times what I took from them.

**Jesus:** Today, salvation has come to this house. Zacchaeus has shown you what it means to be a son of Abraham. The Son of Man has come to find and save what was lost.

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*How did Zacchaeus show he was sorry for his sins?*

*Why did Jesus come to earth?*

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

Luke 19:1-10