

Who Jesus Is?

“Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see Him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, He looked up and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.’ So he came down at once and welcomed Him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, ‘He has gone to be a guest of a sinner.’ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, ‘Look Lord! Here and now I give half of my possession to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and save what was lost.’” (Luke 19:1-10)

Who Jesus is? This is a question that is in the heart of many people today. This same question was in the heart of those people around Jesus since He was born until He died on the cross and resurrected from the dead. Although almost the whole world have already heard about Jesus by any means – direct preaching from Christians, attending a church, listening to the radio, watching television programs or certain movies that speak about Jesus life, His suffering and death on the cross to give us eternal life. The *“Passion of the Christ”* was the latest movie that was shown to almost all over the world. Certainly most people have already heard about Jesus or at least had heard about the suffering of the Christ. Yet few of them really know **who Jesus is!**

Who Jesus is? This is a question that made Zacchaeus climb the sycamore tree. He heard about Jesus and about the miracles He had been doing like opening the eyes of the blind, making the mute speak, the deaf to hear, multiplying the bread and fish to feed the multitude, and raising the dead people to life. At that moment Zacchaeus was so interested to see who Jesus is. But being a short man he could not because of the crowd. *So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see Him, since Jesus was coming that way.* Jesus knew who Zacchaeus was: A tax collector having bad reputation because category of people they cheat by collecting extra tax and keeping some of the revenue for themselves. They were known to the society as sinners. Surely Zacchaeus was also unsatisfied in his personal life. He knew that the people around were unhappy with him.

Jesus knew what was in the heart of Zacchaeus, that he really wanted to meet Him. When Jesus reached the spot, He looked up and said to him, *“Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.”* That was unexpected by Zacchaeus – that Jesus would come and enter his home. Yet he responded quickly. *“So he came down at once and welcomed Him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, ‘He has gone to be a guest of a sinner.’”*

Who Jesus is?

1. **Jesus loves sinners:** Because Jesus is righteous many people put the presumption that He should only enter the house of good people. But let us remember what He said: *“It is no the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.”* Jesus came from heaven seeking the sinners, those who are living lost in the life of sin; adultery, corruption, in debauchery, greed for money and lovers of position, worshipping prestige and seeking honor from men. Such kind of people they need Jesus to help them to repent from their sins. Jesus declared: *“For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”* Jesus came from heaven, He carried the sins of the world and He paid the price when He died on the cross to give eternal life to those who believe in Him.
2. **Jesus gives new life:** Jesus had transformed the life of Zacchaeus. He can transform and change people’s way of life. Jesus had shown great love and respect to Zacchaeus. When He entered his house even he is a sinner that act touched Zacchaeus’ heart. Men cannot tolerate sinners, but Jesus is not a mere man. If he were a mere man He would deal with Zacchaeus as others do. But Jesus is not a man! He is God. He became a man to reach us and save us.

That kind act of Jesus toward Zacchaeus meant forgiveness for all the sins that he had done. It was a great opportunity for Zacchaeus, therefore He repented and decided to turn away from his sinful ways when he said to Jesus, *“Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”*

3. **Jesus is God:** Such great changes in the attitude of Zacchaeus from holding the money and stinginess toward giving everyone what is due for him; giving to the needy and living a righteous life, is not an easy action. But Zacchaeus was able to turn away from sin because Jesus gave him the power to do that; Jesus gave him the ability to control his greed and his love for the money. Jesus gave him the power and enabled him to be changed because Jesus is God. As soon as Jesus entered Zacchaeus’ house, that man received that power and He repented from his sins and he gave his life to Jesus. In fact Jesus created in Zacchaeus a new creation from the Spirit of God, that Spirit of God enabled him to do righteous acts pleasant to God.

My dear and beloved: Jesus loves you more than what you expect; He hates sin but He loves sinners. Jesus is God, He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, He can transform you, He can build you up; He can enable you to control yourself and to get rid of your sinful actions if you are willing to know Him and to submit yourself to His will. He can rescue you; surely you will receive salvation if you are willing to give your life to Him as you pray:

My Prayer: *Heavenly Father, I come before You in the name of Jesus. Forgive me Lord my sins, cleanse me from all unrighteousness. I believe that Jesus died for me on the cross to give me eternal life and in His blood there is forgiveness of sins. O Lord transform me and enable me to live a life pleasant to you, doing your will, following you all the days of my life until you will come and take me to live with you in heaven forever. Thank you Lord, this is my prayer in Jesus’ name, Amen.*