

Zacchaeus Becomes Jesus' Disciple (Luke 19:1-10)

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Guidelines: Protect confidentiality and follow the leader's prompts.

Ignatian Meditation Process: Ignatius focuses on cultivating holy desires (as in this Gospel reading), especially in Week 1 of *The Spiritual Exercises*. Read the introduction and then “Ask for the grace”. Then quietly read the passage by using your imagination to enter into the story, sensing and feeling what's going on. Don't analyze the passage or seek insights — *experience yourself as a character in the story*. After the second reading have a “colloquy” (short, personal conversation) with the Lord. You can use the prompts and questions at the bottom to guide your prayer time and journaling (and sharing with others).

Introduction: Luke relays that Jesus has been teaching on how God is generous and delights to respond to the persistent prayers of the humble. We see many unlikely “outsiders” responding to Jesus' gospel of grace with faith and joy, including Zacchaeus. He was considered a traitor by his fellow Jews because he collected taxes from them for Rome and he made himself rich by cheating them. When Jesus came by he was curious, but he was too short to see him so he climbed up a tree to get a good look. Jesus spotted him and befriended him, along many other “sinners.” Zacchaeus renounced his sins and made Jesus his Lord.

Ask For the Grace: God, our Lord, I ask for the grace I desire: that you order all my thoughts, intentions, and actions to praise and serve you.

Imagine Yourself in the Gospel: Luke 19 (MSG)

1-4 Then Jesus entered and walked through Jericho. There was a man there, his name Zacchaeus, the head tax man and quite rich. He wanted desperately to see Jesus, but the crowd was in his way—he was a short man and couldn't see over the crowd. So he ran on ahead and climbed up in a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus when he came by.

5-7 When Jesus got to the tree, he looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, hurry down. Today is my day to be a guest in your home.” Zacchaeus scrambled out of the tree, hardly believing his good luck, delighted to take Jesus home with him. Everyone who saw the incident was indignant and grumped, “What business does he have getting cozy with this crook?”

8 Zacchaeus just stood there, a little stunned. He stammered apologetically, “Master, I give away half my income to the poor—and if I'm caught cheating, I pay four times the damages.”

9-10 Jesus said, “Today is salvation day in this home! Here he is: Zacchaeus, son of Abraham! For the Son of Man came to find and restore the lost.”

1st Reading: Visualize yourself in the Gospel passage. Don't seek intellectual insights — stay with the imagery. Use your senses to see, touch, feel, and hear. What part of the story are you drawn to? Which character do you identify with or are you a bystander?

2nd Reading: Experience the story in the role of the character God led you to. Then talk with the Lord. What do you feel? How does this relate to something in your life today? What is God saying to you?