

THE RETURN OF THE LOST

잃어버린 자들의 귀환

Luke 19:1-10 누가복음

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A little child who gets lost

- ▶ When I was a little boy, my parents brought me to a famous beach “Haeundae”, in Korea. The beach was full of people. I played with a tire tube with my dad.
- ▶ Riding waves I was so excited, but I did not let my dad out of my sight, because I was afraid I would get lost. I somehow fell in shallow water and got up and I run to my dad.
- ▶ However, unfortunately he was not my dad. I had thought the man was my dad, but actually he was not. I was devastated. I got lost!

A little child who gets lost

- ▶ I desperately sought for my dad here and there. Fortunately a few minutes later my dad found me.
- ▶ Even though I was lost only for a few minutes, I felt as if I had been in Hell. Even today I vividly remember the fear I felt almost 45 years ago.
- ▶ Probably you also have similar experiences that you got lost when you were a little child.

Zacchaeus, a lost one

- ▶ It happens for some children to get lost and cannot get home for a long time. What a terrible thing it is!
- ▶ Zacchaeus, the protagonist of Today's passage, was one of them.
- ▶ How did he get lost, and how could he get home?

Jericho

- ▶ Jericho was a well-known toll place in Palestine, especially for goods passing east and west between Judea and Perea.
- ▶ Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town (1). And the author of the Luke focuses on a man named “Zacchaeus”.

Who is Zacchaeus?

- ▶ His name Zacchaeus means “Righteous One”, yet he is far from being righteous.
- ▶ He is a chief tax collector and rich (2).
- ▶ He is short (3).
- ▶ He has cheated people on their taxes (8).
- ▶ As an administrator for the Roman government’s tax office, Zacchaeus has accumulated great wealth, overcharging his people and probably taking a cut from the taxes gathered by other tax collectors under his supervision.

A Lost One

- ▶ In particular, he is LOST as Jesus describes him in v. 10
“who are lost (NLT)”
- ▶ In what respect, is he lost?

First, “to be lost” means “to be destroyed”.

- ▶ At first Zacchaeus was formed in God’s image (Gen 1:26-27), however most of this beautiful image and character has been destroyed due to his sins such as his broken relationship with God and those with people cheating them on their taxes.

Second, “to be lost” means “to get lost in his life journey”.

- ▶ What did he want to be in the future, when he was young?
- ▶ It would not be a tax collector, a betrayer of his country. Yet eventually he has been serving money instead of God even cheating people. He has deformed and unhealthy purpose in his life.

Zacchaeus wants to see Jesus.

- ▶ He wants to get a look at Jesus, but he is too short to see over the crowd (4). It is not for the sake of curiosity or to see Him carrying out a sign.
- ▶ So he runs ahead and climbs a sycamore-fig tree. Such undignified behavior, according to that culture, demonstrates that Zacchaeus has a honest desire to see Jesus.

Jesus wants to see Zacchaeus.

- ▶ Seeing a short man dangling from a tree, people must laugh at him.
- ▶ When Jesus reaches the spot, he looks up and says to him,

"Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." (5)

“삭개오야 속히 내려오라 내가 오늘 네 집에 유하여야 하겠다.”

Jesus calls Zacchaeus by his name.

- ▶ How does Jesus know a man is on the tree, and how does Jesus know the name of that person?
- ▶ The knowledge of Jesus on Zacchaeus shows that Jesus deeply cares about him.
- ▶ Jesus wants to see Zacchaeus more than this tax collector wants to see Him.

What does Jesus ask Zacchaeus to do?

"Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." (5)

“삭개오야 속히 내려오라 내가 오늘 네 집에 유하여야 하겠다.”

- ▶ Jesus eagerly wants to BE with him staying at his house right now.
- ▶ Although Zacchaeus has been indifferent to Him for a long time, Jesus treats him as if a father accepted his lost son.

The Invitation of Jesus

- ▶ Jesus invites Zacchaeus to be with Him at his house.
- ▶ Zacchaeus undoubtedly has never thought Jesus would ask him to come to his house right now.
- ▶ It would not be easy for him to say “Yes” to this demand of Jesus.
- ▶ How about you? Are you ready for Jesus to come to your house and your room right now?
- ▶ Or do you need at least a couple of hours to prepare cleaning up unclean, impure, and shameful things in your house?

Zacchaeus immediately welcomes Jesus!

“So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.”

“급히 내려와 즐거워하며 영접하거늘.” (6)

- ▶ Accepting the invitation of Jesus by faith, Zacchaeus welcomes Jesus to his house without hesitation, because he knows what privilege he has now.
- ▶ Likewise, Zacchaeus comes into **THE PRESENCE** of the Son of God.

An obstacle

- ▶ But the people are displeased and they grumble,
“He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner,” (NLT)
“못 사람이 보고 수군거리려 이르되 저가 죄인의 집에 유
하러 들어갔도다 하더라. (7)

Fundamental Changes begin.

- ▶ After meeting Jesus, Zacchaeus, the tax collector and traitor is no longer the same man. Repentance comes in the form of action.
- ▶ What changes occur in his life style?

His begins to give!

▶ But Zacchaeus stands up and says to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor.” (8, ESV)

“주여 보시옵소서 내 소유의 절반을 가난한 자들에게 주겠사오며”

- ▶ “It is a thank offering expressive of a changed heart.” (A. J. Ellis, Luke p. 221)
- ▶ The offering of Zacchaeus shows he received Jesus as his Lord.

Offerings and Living with Jesus

- ▶ If you have really received Jesus as your Lord, your view of money will be changed. You will have a biblical view of money and give offering to the Lord.
- ▶ Your attitude toward your offering closely related to your relationship with Jesus. Let me explain why.

Marriage and your purse

- ▶ Before getting married, I naturally handled my finance by myself. It is a personal matter.
- ▶ But since I got married with Marie, I have been handling my purse and finance with her, because I love my wife and I trust her. It is no longer MY purse but OUR purse.
- ▶ I have never had any secret bank account or any secret purse, which Marie is not aware of.

A Strange couple

- ▶ Suppose a man, who has just married a beautiful woman, tells her day and night “I love you honey, without you nothing is meaningful to me!” Nonetheless this man handles his purse by himself without discussing on it with his wife. From time to time he gives a little amount of money to her.
- ▶ He does like this, because he thinks money matters are too personal so that he cannot handle them even with his wife. Do you think this couple can love each other becoming a healthy couple?

Marriage to Jesus

- ▶ If you have received Jesus as your Lord, it spiritually means you have married Jesus.
- ▶ As Zacchaeus did, you are to handle your purse with Jesus in order to have normal relationship with Him.
- ▶ Although you say “Jesus, I love you”, as long as you don’t give your offering to Him according to the biblical standard, you are not able to have normal relationship with Him, because...

Jesus declared,

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also... No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.” (Mat 6:21, 24)

“네 보물 있는 그 곳에는 네 마음도 있느니라... 집 하인이 두 주인을 섬길 수 없나니 혹 이를 미워하고 저를 사랑하거나 혹 이를 중히 여기고 저를 경히 여길 것임이니라 너희는 하나님과 재물을 겸하여 섬길 수 없느니라.”

Your life depends on your relation with Him.

- ▶ Although you want to have an intimate relationship with Jesus, if you hardly have it, you have to check a couple of essential things. One of them is your offering.
- ▶ As long as you don't have a biblical view of money giving your offering properly, you would better not to expect to have an normal relation with Christ.

- ▶ Our repentance has to come in the form of action like that of Zacchaeus.
- ▶ You don't have to give all your offerings to DCFM. You are free to give your offerings to other churches or mission organizations.
- ▶ Essential thing is that you are strongly encouraged to give your proper offering to Jesus, who is your Lord and spiritual husband, who are working for physically and spiritually poor people.

Repentance and Action

▶ Zacchaeus also tells Jesus,

“if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.” (8b)

“만일 누구의 것을 속여 빼앗은 일이 있으면 네 갑절이 나 갚겠나이다.”

▶ After meeting Jesus, he acknowledges his faults and begins to give his best to fix them.

Salvation has come to this house!

Jesus declares,

"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 to save what was lost." (9-10)

“오늘 구원이 이 집에 이르렀으니 이 사람도 아브라함의 자손임이로다. 인자가 온 것은 잃어버린 자를 찾아 구원하려 함이니라.”

- ▶ Zacchaeus was once lost, but now he is found. He has come to the presence of Christ.

John Newton

Son of a merchant sea captain, John Newton (1725–1807) was forced into the British Royal Navy at age nineteen. Following a failed attempt at escape, Newton was humiliated and flogged. He found work with a slave trader shipping slaves from Africa. On March 21, 1748, a great storm at sea nearly sank his ship in the North Atlantic, and Newton gave his life to Jesus at the age of 23.*

* Rusten, S. with E. Michael. (2005). The complete book of when & where in the Bible and throughout history (p. 307). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.

John Newton

Although it took time, fundamental changes occurred in his life: he avoided profanity, gambling, and drinking. And six years later, he definitely gave up slave-trading activities.

Later, he became an evangelical Anglican pastor and served for 20 years. He also wrote hymns, one of them is known for Amazing Grace. It is probably the most famous hymn in history.

This hymn describes well how Jesus dramatically saved Newton, a lost one, and how He changed Newton's life.

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

In Order to Come to the Presence of Christ

- ▶ When he was invited by Jesus, the rich ruler went away sad, whereas Zacchaeus gladly received Him.
- ▶ When Zacchaeus has come to the presence of Christ, fundamental changes have occurred in his life: He has become glad, generous, pure, brave, and compassionate.
- ▶ He has found true happiness which lasts forever.

How to come to the presence of Christ?

- ▶ In real life, it is not easy for us to come to the presence of Christ. We need to make every effort for it.
- ▶ Lord's Day worship is the best opportunity for us to come to the presence of Christ on a regular basis.
- ▶ Our church will give our best to improve our Lord's Day service to that we may come to the presence of Christ more effectively.

Jesus has come to seek the lost.

- ▶ Do you think you are a lost one? It is time for you to receive Jesus like Zacchaeus did.
- ▶ If you have already come to Jesus, you are strongly encouraged to regularly come to the presence of Christ, in whom you will see fundamental changes in your life style.

Prayer:

- ▶ Heavenly Father, thank you for Jesus who has come to see us who are/were wretches like Zacchaeus. We were once lost but now are found. Lord, we long to come into the presence of Christ. Have mercy on us so that our repentance may come in the form of action like that of Zacchaeus! In Jesus name we pray. Amen!