

ACCEPTING THE UNACCEPTABLE

Pastor Jerry Clonch, July 8, 2007

Text: Luke 19:1-10

I. THREE WAYS JESUS COMMUNICATED ACCEPTANCE TO ZACCHAEUS

A. Jesus communicated acceptance with a _____
“When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up...” v. 5a

B. Jesus communicated acceptance with a _____
“He looked up and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, come down immediately.’”
v. 5b

C. Jesus communicated acceptance with a _____
“Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house
today.” v. 5c

II. ZACCHAEUS' RESPONSE

A. Zacchaeus responded _____
“So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.” v. 6

B. Zacchaeus responded _____
“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.”

v.8

Discussion/Reflection Questions

1. Zacchaeus was unable to see Jesus because of the “crowd.” Who or what is keeping you from seeing Jesus?
2. Zacchaeus threw aside people’s opinion of him, to run ahead and climb a tree in order to see Jesus. What do you need to do to get closer to Jesus?
3. If you had been Zacchaeus when Jesus stopped and told him to come down, how would you have felt?
4. Remember a time when somebody took your money unfairly. If you had been one of Zacchaeus' victims, how would you have felt about Jesus' behavior in verse 5?
5. What kind of people do you think find it harder to turn their lives over to the Lord— “nice” people or “bad” people? Why?
6. Read Acts 7:58–8:1a and 9:1–30: The New Testament’s most notorious convert was Saul of Tarsus—the beloved apostle Paul. As you read his story, put yourself in the place of the disciples and the Christians he had persecuted. How would you have reacted to the news of this man’s faith?
7. Zacchaeus’ priorities and passions radically changed because of his encounter with Jesus. How have your priorities and passions changed

since receiving Jesus' acceptance?