

Series: Seeing the Same Old Thing for the First Time

Does God Love the IRS?

Luke 19:1-10 (NIV)

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ²A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." ⁶So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'"

⁸But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "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."

⁹Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

1. GOD IS WILLING TO GO OUT OF HIS WAY TO DEMONSTRATE HIS LOVE TO SINNERS. (vv. 1-4)

Romans 5:8 (TEV)

But God has shown us how much he loves us—it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!

1 John 4:9-10 (NIV)

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

- Jesus made a detour because He loved sinners.

Matthew 18:12-14 (NIV)

"What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? ¹³And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. ¹⁴In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.

- Regardless of our position, we need Jesus.
- No matter what our obstacles, we need Jesus.

We are not sinners because we sin; we sin because we are sinners. R. C. SPROUL (1939–)

2. JESUS SPENT TIME WITH SINNERS, WHAT DO YOU THINK HE WANTS US TO DO? (vv. 5-7)

Matthew 9:10-11 (NIV)

While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. ¹¹When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"

- Jesus was willing for His reputation to be put on the line in order to be with lost people.
- How far are we willing to go to share the love of Christ?

3. WHEN THE LOVE OF GOD IS PRESENT, SINNERS WILL RESPOND. (vv. 8-10)

- When lost people are loved, they will respond.
- When genuine life change happens, we are never the same.
- When we get on board with God's agenda, lives will be changed.

God is on a mission to redeem lost men and women, boys and girls to Himself and His greatest desire is for us to join Him in His mission.