

Weekend Teaching Discussion Guide
Face to Face – Week One: Jesus and Zacchaeus
Teaching by Pastor Ken

WARM-UP QUESTION

If you could have a face-to-face conversation with Jesus today, what would you most want to ask Him or tell Him?

DISCUSS

1. Setting the Scene: A Wealthy City and a Searching Man

Pastor Ken began by painting a picture of Jericho. It was one of the wealthiest cities of its time, sitting at a major crossroads in the Jordan Valley. Known as the City of Palms, it was filled with sweet fragrances, lush landscape, and economic power. It was also one of the world's greatest tax centers.

Tax collectors were seen as traitors. They worked for Rome and often extorted their own people. Zacchaeus was not just a tax collector. He was the chief tax collector. He had reached the top of his profession in the largest market. He was wealthy, influential, and successful. Yet he was also lonely and searching.

Read *Luke 19:5–10*.

- What stands out to you most about Zacchaeus before he meets Jesus?
 - Why do you think someone who had wealth and power would still feel curious about Jesus?
 - Zacchaeus was determined to see Jesus and climbed a tree when the crowd would not move. What does that say about his hunger or desperation?
 - What obstacles have ever stood between you and a clearer view of Jesus?
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2. Muting the Grumbling Spirit

As Zacchaeus welcomed Jesus, the crowd muttered and grumbled. Instead of celebrating transformation, they criticized the association.

Pastor Ken reminded us that muttering and grumbling kill joy and separate us from God's presence and God's best. He referenced how Israel grumbled in the wilderness and missed

what God had prepared for them. Scripture teaches that when issues need to be addressed, there is both a process and a spirit with which we address them.

Read *Philippians 2:14–15*.

- Why do you think grumbling is so spiritually dangerous?
 - How can a negative or critical spirit affect a church, workplace, or family culture?
 - Pastor Ken warned against becoming the listening ear for constant complaining. Why is that important?
 - What practical steps can you take to address concerns in a Christlike spirit instead of falling into grumbling?
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3. The Divine Must of Jesus

When Jesus stopped beneath the tree, He looked up and called Zacchaeus by name. He said, “I **must** be a guest in your home today.”

Pastor Ken emphasized that the word “must” reflects divine necessity. Jesus was not distracted. He was on a mission. In other places, Jesus said He must preach and must go to Jerusalem. Here, He must go to the house of a notorious sinner.

Read *Luke 19:5*.

- Why do you think Jesus intentionally chose to associate with someone so publicly disliked?
 - What does the word "must" teach us about the focus and priority of Jesus' mission?
 - How can we keep minor issues from distracting us from what matters most?
 - Who in your life might Jesus be prompting you to move toward intentionally?
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4. A Changed Life That Others Notice

Zacchaeus did not just express excitement. He demonstrated transformation. He offered half of his possessions to the poor and pledged fourfold restitution to anyone he had cheated.

Old Testament law required different levels of repayment depending on the offense. Zacchaeus went far beyond what was required. His actions showed a changed heart.

- Why is it significant that Zacchaeus' transformation was seen in what he did, not just what he said?
- What does his generosity reveal about what had changed inside him?

- How should generosity mark the life of someone who has experienced the grace of Christ?
 - In what ways can your daily choices reflect that Jesus has changed you?
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5. Seeking and Saving the Lost

Jesus concluded the encounter by saying,

“Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”

Luke 19:9–10

Pastor Ken explained that lost means not in its rightful place. Jesus came to restore what was out of place and bring it home. Once we have received that grace, we are called to share it.

- What does it mean to you personally that Jesus seeks and saves the lost?
 - How does remembering that you were once lost shape the way you view others?
 - Why is face-to-face connection often the most powerful way to share life and love?
 - As we move toward Easter, who is someone you can begin praying for and intentionally investing in now?
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6. If Jesus Came to Your House

Pastor Ken left us with two reflective questions.

- If Jesus came to your house to spend the day, what would you talk about? What do you think He would ask you?
- Who do you need to stop for, invest in, invite, or share with?

Take a few moments to sit quietly and consider your honest answers.

CLOSING REFLECTION

Which statement best reflects where you are right now?

- I need to move past distractions and refocus on what truly matters.
- I need to guard my heart and speech from grumbling.
- I need a genuine encounter with Jesus that transforms not just my words but my actions.
- I need to step into my mission and intentionally seek someone who feels lost or

overlooked.

- I need to prepare my heart and begin praying about who to invite as we approach Easter.
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PRAYER

Close by thanking Jesus that He still stops, looks up, and calls people by name. Thank Him that His grace has no limit and that He came to seek and save the lost. Ask Him to guard your heart from grumbling, to keep you focused on what matters most, and to transform your life in ways that others can see. Pray for boldness to go face-to-face with those who need to experience His love as we move toward Easter.