



Next is Now - A Tree, A Crowd and A Table **Pastor James Heyward**

JESUS DOES NOT WAIT FOR SOMEDAY; HE WALKS INTO YOUR NOW.

- Being a Tree-Sitter

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. 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?" "crook?" 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." 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." Luke 9:1-10 (MSG)

1. What do you think made Jesus take note of Zacchaeus?

2. Are you a 'tree-sitter' - curious, but watching from a safe distance?

3. How can you move on from being merely a tree-sitter in your relationship with Jesus?

- Being a Part of the Crowd

"The next day the huge crowd that had arrived for the Feast heard that Jesus was

entering Jerusalem. They broke off palm branches and went out to meet him. And they cheered: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in God's name! Yes! The King of Israel! Jesus got a young donkey and rode it, just as the Scripture has it: No fear, Daughter Zion: See how your king comes, riding a donkey's colt. The disciples didn't notice the fulfillment of many Scriptures at the time, but after Jesus was glorified, they remembered that what was written about him matched what was done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb, raising him from the dead, was there giving eyewitness accounts. It was because they had spread the word of this latest God-sign that the crowd swelled to a welcoming parade. The Pharisees took one look and threw up their hands: "It's out of control. The world's in a stampede after him."
John 12:12-19 (MSG)

JESUS IS NOT JUST THE KING OF OUT THERE; HE WANTS TO BE LORD OF RIGHT HERE.

3. What makes it easy to be part of the crowd?

4. Are you part of the crowd - loud in your praise but shallow in your surrender?

5. How can you move 'out of the crowd' in your relationship with Jesus?

- Coming to the Table

"Six days before Passover, Jesus entered Bethany where Lazarus, so recently raised from the dead, was living. Lazarus and his sisters invited Jesus to dinner at their home. Martha served. Lazarus was one of those sitting at the table with them. Mary came in with a jar of very expensive aromatic oils, anointed and massaged Jesus' feet, and then wiped them with her hair. The fragrance of the oils filled the house." John 12:1-3 (MSG)

6. What did Mary's actions say about her relationship with Jesus?

7. Have you come to the table - vulnerable, intimate and ready to worship?

8. What will it take for you to 'come to the table' in your relationship with Jesus?

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