

Title: The Love of Christ for Souls

Scripture: Luke 19:10

Speaker: Vic Redding

Event: Sunday Morning Service

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**Luke 19:10** *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."*

AW Tozer said "I have suffered through many a dull and tedious sermon, but no sermon is poor or long when the preacher is showing me the beauty of Jesus." The prior scripture in this chapter is sharing the account of Zacchaeus. We often put most of our attention on Zacchaeus, but miss the biggest point of this account – the statement Jesus made saying that he "is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

1. **His reason for coming to the earth:** seeking and saving was a divine focus of the ministry of Jesus Christ on this earth. Christ could have come and done miracles that exceed those mentioned in the Bible, but those miracles were secondary. Their purpose was to bring people to knowledge and grace through examples (the miracles). He did not come for earthly wealth or riches. There are so many people focused on gaining things from this earth that they have lost focus or will never have focus on Christ and his purpose for coming to earth. Lost souls were more valuable than any jewel on the earth. **We** are more important to Christ than our homes, riches, and treasures. II Corinthians 8:9 *"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."* Do you realize how rich you are if you are a child of God? We experience such grace and mercy when we didn't deserve it, yet Christ came and made himself poor to save men. Philippians 2:6-8 *"Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* Could we give up everything to see a man get saved? There are missionaries who have given up the comforts of home just to get the chance to see a soul come to Christ. Have we been willing to lay down whatever to show others why Christ came? He came to seek and save
2. **His sensitivity to opportunities for saving souls:** Luke 19:5-6 *"And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully."* Jesus didn't simply see a man in a tree. He saw a man headed on the road to hell. Many in that crowd didn't see Zacchaeus the way Jesus did. In verse 7, it says *"and when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner."* The best gift we can ever get is Christ coming into our home. This example of Christ taking an opportunity isn't the first or only time he did it. Here are some other times he used his sensitivity to people as an opportunity to share the gospel:
  - a. John 4: Christ used the water and the well to open the door to witness to the Samaritan woman. When he asked her to go and tell her husband, she found that Christ knew everything about her. She then went on to tell everyone she knew about him. In verse 29 she says *"Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?"*
  - b. John 9: Christ used the blind man to be an example to others. Christ restored his sight and the religious crowd did not like it. Sometimes we don't like what Jesus does for others. Jesus was so hated by the religious crowd, that anyone who claimed him would be excommunicated from the temple. John 9:35-38 *"Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him."*

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- c. Mark 2: Christ used healing the man who was sick with palsy as an example to a house full of people. Afterward he used eating a meal with publicans and sinners as an opportunity to talk to the Pharisees who questioned his actions.

The author Stocker said in the book *Imagino Quisto*, "Jesus Christ made use of his miracles as a stepping stone to reach lost souls." Are we sensitive? Do we see opportunities that we could witness to the Lord?

3. **His search for lost souls:** Luke 15:3-4 *"And he spake this parable unto them, saying, What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?"* This chapter of Luke contains three parables about things being lost. Those three parables reveal the trinity of God:

- a. **The parable of the lost sheep:** reveals the love of the good shepherd
- b. **The parable of the lost coin:** reveals the love of the Holy spirit that searches out the lost
- c. **The parable of the prodigal son:** reveals the love of the father to forgive

Jesus not only received lost souls, but he went out in search of them. A man once said "true love for souls will always reveal itself in our active search for them." No lost soul should go to hell because we neglected to tell them about Jesus.

4. **We see his joy and celebration over lost souls being saved: Luke 15:5-7; 10:** *"And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing." And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." RA Torrey said "How cold and uninterested most of us are when we deal with a soul; and if by chance we succeed in leading one to Christ, how listless and indifferent we are about it."*
5. **We see also his grief over rejecting souls:** John 5:39-40 *"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."* Matthew 23:37 *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!"* These words came from a man full of compassion and grace. He worked great miracles and much more, yet he was rejected. There will be people who will leave church today who will reject him.