**Zacchaeus: We Matter to God**Luke 19

One of the deepest needs we have is the need to feel value
-appearance -judge our value my how we look
 need glowing skin, incredible hair /  six pack abs
-approval
   what other people think about us
   trying to gain approval of mom or dad. someone us
-achievements
    goals,
-affluence

bases self worth what you believe the most important person in your life by what they think.

Make Jesus the most important person in your life

Zaccheacus  Luke 14

Jericho time of Jesus
edge of desert, springs within city.  oasis, like palm springs
wealthy people lived there.  Today, still green, but not clean

1**. No matter how small we feel , Jesus sees us***Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him,” Luke 19:1-5a NLT*

song: wee like man….
chief tax collector- most despised job   the chief guy
physicians and butcher
dung collectors
money lender
piegon trainers
tax collectors
names his name   names means righteous and pure one
he was short, means micro a dwarf perhaps

teased all his life,  a way to get back at everyone.
focused on affluence and finally be worthwhile

picture of a sycamore tree

eye contact with Vicki

**2. No matter what others say, Jesus values us**

*When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.” Luke 19:5-7*

*Jesus said “…this man, too, is a son of Abraham.” Luke 19:9b*

gideon, hiding….greeting mighty man of valor!
Peter…. the rock!
names you’ve been called
focus on what God calls you
special name he gives you
*Rev. 2:17 And I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name that no one understands except the one who receives it.*

*you are righteous, saint, fellow heir with Christ
I want to be with you.*

*before you even meet Jesus, he wants to be with you
you’ve been hurt, you have hurt people*

*mutter….sound like the word.
Luke 5:30   why do you eat
Luke 15:1
pastor get complaints at times.  Never who I am eating with*

**3. No matter what our struggle, Jesus transforms us***But 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.” Luke 19:8*

*1/2 to the poor.
Zaccheaus focused on possessions
this was his God.  His belief is now in Jesus*

Ancient Jewish formula for restitution:
Fraud (Numbers 5:6,7): 1/5 of it's value 20%
Robbery (Exodus 22:4-7): 2x 200%
Robbery with assault (Exodus 22:1): 4x 400%

NO recorded what Jesus said, but Zacheaus was changed.

Not the penance  of a troubled heart But the evidence of a changed heart (James 1:27; Ephesians 2:10)

**4. No matter how far we've gone, Jesus Seeks Us***9 Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Luke 19:9-10

HOW SHOULD I RESPOND? So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. Luke 19:6*

*Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house…” Luke 19:9a*

*for the son of man came to seek and to save the lost
Luke 19:10*

the whole point of Jesus coming was to seek and save
not judge and condemn - that comes later

losing Andy at Sea World
panic, desperately looking for him

that is how Jesus is looking for us and wants us to tell others
Luke 15
something of great value was lost
urgent search
celebration

response
came down at once and welcomed him gladly
 TODAY in the town of David
Today is used often

Let God change your *heart
Get out of your tree*