

# Going Devotional 2

*“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost” ~ LUKE 19:10 (HCSB)*

## LISTEN TO GOD: Luke 19:1-10

Can you hear them murmuring? “I can’t believe he’s at that man’s house. Doesn’t he know what kind of person he’s staying with? If he were truly from God he wouldn’t do such a thing. This is disgraceful!”

All around town a good scandal was brewing up. Jesus was staying at the home of Zacchaeus, a notorious sinner. Sharing a meal around someone’s table had a far greater significance in that culture than a mere dinner party we might throw today. Table fellowship indicated closeness and deep friendship. The people of Jericho looked at this scene and couldn’t make sense of it. Why would a reputed holy man like Jesus have fellowship with the likes of Zacchaeus? Most people simply wanted to avoid Zacchaeus.

From inside the house, Jesus saw things differently. He knew about Zacchaeus’ sinful life. Jesus never made excuses for sin; he took it very seriously. But he also loved people. He had an especially warm place in his heart for people who were searching, people who were open to the work of God in their lives. Zacchaeus was open. He was looking for something that was missing. He was so open that he climbed a tree to get a glimpse of Jesus as the teacher was passing through Jericho. Such an undignified public act by a grown man of considerable wealth indicated the degree of interest in Zacchaeus’ heart.

The influence of Jesus brought about sincere repentance in the life of Zacchaeus. Jesus declared that salvation had come to the house of this notorious sinner. Zacchaeus was now a new person – a true son of Abraham – because of his faith in Jesus. I wonder if the scandalized people of Jericho ever figured out what was going on?

Jesus spotted a good teaching opportunity for anyone who cared to listen. He used the occasion to restate his mission. “This is why I came. This is why I’m here. The Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.”

How intentional are you about connecting with lost people? Is engaging lostness the missional priority of your church? Are you seeking out the lost both near and far in order to bring them under the influence of Jesus? If his mission was “to seek and to save the lost,” shouldn’t it also be ours?

## PRAYER & ACTION:

- Think about when you were lost and Jesus sought you. Give him thanks for seeking and saving the lost. Express gratitude for special individuals and churches he used to bring you to repentance and faith.
- Do some research into the lostness of your community, region, nation and world. Commit yourself to being on mission with Jesus individually and as part of your church’s efforts to engage lostness both near and far.