



Out on a Limb
Luke 19:1-10

Sermon Series: *Worth Its Weight in Gold*



I. Everyone is Out on Some Kind of Broken Limb

- *People are out on a broken limb of lostness (v.10)*
- *“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*



Out on a Broken Limb (cont'd)

- ***People are also out on the broken limb of deceit (v.8)***
- ***“Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.”***



Out on a Broken Limb ***(cont'd)***

- Zaccheus mentioned “defrauding” people, a perk of his position.
- Jeremiah 17:9 says, “*The heart is deceitful above all things.*”
- That word “deceitful” is a Hebrew word which means to “swell-up”, or “trip-up.” Our pride is a trap.



Out on a Broken Limb (cont'd)

- ***People are out on the broken limb of materialism (v.2)***
- ***“And there was a man called by the name of Zaccheus; he was a chief tax collector and he was rich.”***
- ***Money was this little man’s big problem.***



Out on a Broken Limb (cont'd)

- Zaccheus had become wealthy but with a bad conscious and an empty life.
- The more Zacchaeus ripped off others, the more let down he felt in frustration.



Out on a Broken Limb (cont'd)

- ***People are also out on the broken limb of waffling (v.2)***
- ***“...he was a chief tax collector.”***
- **Zaccheus had displayed a lack of loyalty to his own country by becoming a pawn of the Romans.**



Out on a Broken Limb (cont'd)

- Integrity integrates your life. It only comes from a commitment to get out on a limb.
- Meeting Christ, Zaccheus' life suddenly changed.



II. We Must Get Out On A Limb With Jesus

- *We need a life-changing appointment (v.5)*
- *When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, “Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.”*



Out on a Limb with Jesus (cont'd)

- In the gospels, on eight occasions, Jesus accepted an invitation to dinner.
- But this is the only time where Jesus invites Himself over to someone's house. The King of the Universe stands at the door and knocks (Rev. 3:20).



Out on a Limb with Jesus (cont'd)

- If you *“hear His voice, open the door”* and come down from the tree, He will *“receive you gladly”* (Lk. 19:6).
- In v.5, Luke uses one of his favorite words, “today,” which conveys the present fulfillment of God’s plan of salvation, as in v.9.



Out on a Limb with Jesus (cont'd)

- Ephesians 3:16-17 (NLT), *“I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. ¹⁷ Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong.”*



Out on a Limb with Jesus (cont'd)

- When Christ “settles down and makes Himself permanently at home in you” (the literal idea of Ephesians 3:17), then He is free to do what He pleases with your time, talents, and treasures.



Out on a Limb with Jesus (cont'd)

- ***We must make a life-changing divestment (v.8).***
- ***Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.”***



Out on a Limb with Jesus (cont'd)

- In v.8 he said, “I will give” (future tense).
- This is a statement of resolve and commitment totally unlike his earlier waffling.
- The check had to be written, but the money was as good as in the bank. Commitment is no longer a dirty word.



Out on a Limb with Jesus (cont'd)

- Then he said, “...if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.”
- That word “if” is a first class conditional in the New Testament Greek language that really means not “if” but “since” (since I have defrauded). He was honestly confessing sin.



Out on a Limb with Jesus (cont'd)

- Zaccheus gave half of his goods in a known amount.
- Then he spoke of an unknown amount that God would reveal to him (v.8).



Out on a Limb with Jesus (cont'd)

- V.9 says *“Salvation came to his house.”*
- Faith based giving will involve all of your family. The blessings always spill over.
- Your family should also pray with you about your giving. Your surrender might be used by God to bring about their salvation.



Out on a Limb with Jesus (cont'd)

- We must make a life-long investment
(v.8)
- *“It was what we gave away that we were able to keep forever.”*
- *-J.C. Stribling*



III. Your Investment Involves Following Biblical Principles

- *God owns everything and expects us to examine our lives.*
- *Is there anything that I will not give to God if He desires it?*
- If there is, then I am covetous.



Following Biblical Principles (cont'd)

- ***Is there anything that I love, fear, or serve more than Jesus?***
- If there is, then I am idolatrous.
- ***Is there any person that I will not speak to in witness?***
- If so, then I am rebellious.



Communion

- ***Time of examination and decision.***



Invitation