# *Third Street Church*

# *Conference Call-Midweek Prayer and Bible Study*

# *Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 - 6pm*

**Introductions/ Welcome/ Opening Prayer - Pastor Reid**

**Opening Song: “*Rise up of Men of God*”**

***Rise up, O men of God! Have done with lesser things; Give heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of kings***

***Focus Verses*:** Luke 19:9 -10 *Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.**For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”*

**The Word of God:** Luke 19:1-10 New International Version

### Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

**19**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, “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.”**8**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.” **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.”

***Reflection:***

According to Luke Zacchaeus received the salvation that only Jesus could give. Zacchaeus is a small man and a tax collector. He repented of having defrauded others yet he received salvation. He was ready to prove his repentance with everything he had, his wealth included. He did not allow his wealth to blind him to the damnation of wealth without God.

When he hears that Jesus is coming to town, he climbs up a tree to see over the crowd. To his surprise, Jesus stops under the tree and invites himself to Zacchaeus’ house. Meeting Jesus changes Zacchaeus.

Meeting Jesus changes each of us. We meet Jesus in some unlikely places. Sometimes we don’t give as we should. We hold back on God. There are many reasons that cause us to be stingy with the things God has given us. We can change by looking to the cross. When that happens we give without a command. The mark of the Christian life is one of giving. Not having been made to feel guilty to be generous with God’s gifts to us. Giving comes naturally to Christians. Just do it naturally!! Zacchaeus confesses his sins and promises to put things right with those he defrauded. In our story, it would appear that Zacchaeus is seeking Jesus yet Jesus is seeking him!

***Guiding Questions for Bible Study Discussion***

Please feel free to join in during the study we all learn and are studying God’s Word together. This conference call study is not to judge but to support and fellowship as Christians in these times. You can share if you want or listen. We welcome you all here to study God’s Word!!

1. Name or list all the people in this scripture story. What do you know about the city where this story takes place?
2. What is the message Jesus gave tax collectors in Luke 3:12-13?
3. What was it about Zacchaeus that makes this week’s passage so special? Why would Jesus have allowed this person to interrupt his plans during such a busy day?
4. Religious Jews would have been horrified to enter the home of tax collector let alone eat with one. Which verse tells us that Jesus was not afraid to eat with outsiders?
5. Zacchaeus climbed a tree because he was despised. What other reason did he climb the tree? v.4.
6. For the that grumbled and muttered, why did they not turn their hearts as soon as Jesus accepted Zacchaeus? v.7. Was this reaction like the crowd reactions in Luke 5:30-32, Luke 7:34 and Luke 15:2?
7. Read Ezekiel 24:16. How does this message of salvation relate to Zacchaeus’ story?
8. How is this story a conversion story? v.9-10.

**Apply God’s Word to your Life:**  What other conversion stories can you recall from the bible? These are stories where people were changed and made new, given salvation when they met Jesus. Share one of these stories with someone or share your story of when God changed your life through the life of Jesus Christ.

**What Inspires you these days?**

It may seem like there is little today to inspire us. Hold on to inspiration in the midst of troubling times. A song, hymn, scripture or special reading? How has it inspire you? If you want to share with the group please do.

﻿**Faith in Action:** The physical church doors are closed but we are the distance church wherever we are. Give, share, pray, reach out.

***This month SEPTEMBER, please give to Peace and Global Witness Offering:***

 ***Mission Giving – Third Street Church is giving to the denominational offering. Mail to the church, mark your envelope PCUSA Missions OR Crisis Assistance Ministry CAM-Gaston County. Please give September 6-October 4***

**We are the Church*:*** Reach out ,text, call, email, US mail or virtual, that is our mission as the Body of Christ.

**Evening Prayer-**

**PCUSA - Discipleship Weeks of Prayer and Contemplation:**

**Sept. 13-19- Peace in Relationships**

**Sept. 20-26- Peace in Community**

**Sept.27-Oct.4- Peace in the World**

 **Lift up people and are in crisis, those that are under stress and have lost love ones, those that are isolated and are suffering. God hears our prayers!!**

**Closing Song: “ I *Smile*”**

*Today's a new day, but there is no sunshine nothing but clouds, and it's dark in my heart and it feels like a cold night….I smile, even though I'm hurt, see I smile I know God is working so I smile even though I've been here for a while*

**Closing Words and Blessing**

L: Have a restful evening and know that the world will be different tomorrow than it is today. Yet , God is in the midst!!

**P: God, we Bless your Holy Name!!**

**ALL: Amen**!

Thank you for joining our Bible Study This week!! ***NEXT BIBLE STUDY OCT. 7 at 6pm***

Pastor Reid