## Refrigerator Notes 30 October 2016 "A Lesson from Zacchaeus" Luke 19: 1-9

- 1. Have you ever been to a parade where you couldn't see over the person in front of you?
- 2. Our scripture this morning is about such a man, who went to a parade, but couldn't see above the crowd and he climbed a tree to see the main attraction.
- 3. Jesus, had become a novelty because of the miracles that Jesus had performed in the region.
- 4. The mysteries of the scriptures tell us that neither Jesus nor Zacchaeus, the man who climbed the tree, knew each other.
- 5. As Jesus traveled through the streets of Jericho,Jesus came to the place where Zacchaeus was setting.6. Jesus stopped, looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, you
- come down, for I am going to your house today."
- 7. Not only was Zacchaeus shocked, but the people in the crowd were even more shocked!
- 8. Zacchaeus was a little man with a great big problem! He was a thief and a cheat! He was the 'Chief Tax Collector' who had become very rich, because he cheated the people by collecting more taxes than they owed.
- 9. Zacchaeus knew that he had cheated people and when he and Jesus arrived at his house, without being prompt, Zacchaeus immediately confessed and apologized for his sins.
- 10. "I am going to give half of all that I own to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Why, because Zacchaeus was remorseful for what he had done and he needed to repent (he sensed that Jesus was the Savior).
- 11. One of the mysteries of scripture is that nearly every time we are exposed to Scripture, there is a new meaning and a new truth that is revealed to us.
- 12. In short, the scripture could be preached on a Stewardship Sunday or about transformation, or

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- conversion or repentance or ill respective of a person nature, Jesus found a way to use and save those who were despicable.
- 13. But the bigger question is how does this story apply to our lives; change, gratitude, seeking the face of our Lord first, repentance, faithless to faithfulness?
- 14. The scripture does not tell us what caused Zacchaeus to change, but all will change when we encounter Jesus.
- 15. I don't think it was anything Jesus said or did. I can remember the times when I have felt small or guilty because I have done something that I had done to be hurtful, but then I experienced the presence of the living Christ.
- 16. Zacchaeus was small man, in stature, but he had a big problem—sin like most of us.
- 17. Yet, he was willing to confess his short comings and ask for forgiveness.
- 18. Hebrews 12:1-3 says: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Jesus, he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."
- 19. Our transformation from sin must start from the inside, not with the mind, but with the heart and radiate to the outer layers of our flesh.
- 20. It's about the transformation, not in appearance or mind, but in the heart; to the point when we can proclaim the picture taken yesterday and say "I'm not that person today."

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