

# DEC 26

“When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. “Zacchaeus!” he said. “Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today.”

Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, “I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!” Luke 19:5, 8 NLT

## [lectio] // LUKE 19:1-10

Things have not really changed that much today. Jesus still seeks out sinners. Jesus still invites himself into the lives of shady characters and intentionally loves them. By doing so, these visits of love still make people suspect of why such a “holy” person would associate with such folks with this kind of reputation. And, Jesus still transforms a life and oftentimes the behaviors of change follow quickly (not always, but often). Thus the message of the Kingdom of God to repent and be saved and the gospel message to turn and believe are still powerfully potent in those whose lives are broken and lacking substance. Zach had wealth and power, but had an empty soul. His community consisted of those on the payroll or on the take, not exactly safe and trusted relationships. After giving to the poor and paying back those he cheated, Zach began to build an authentic life based on what salvation brings to the here and now - redemption and transformation.

## [oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

I don't have too friends like Zach right now. I'm not sure I've looked in all the trees in Santa Ana, but I have had a few conversations with neighbors. I'm not necessarily looking for tax collectors or notorious, nefarious sinners, I'll just take the run-of-the-mill person that does not know you but senses a lack in their soul. Point me towards them please! And, I'll look out for the short tree climbers as well.

## [contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root