

**2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

<sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**Luke 19:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>He entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup>And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup>And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. <sup>4</sup>So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. <sup>5</sup>And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” <sup>6</sup>So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. <sup>7</sup>And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” <sup>8</sup>And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” <sup>9</sup>And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Source: [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

**Discussion & Reflection Questions**

1. On the story of Zaccheus (Luke 19:1-10):
  - a. Consider the various ways Zaccheus is described in the passage. Why did the people hold him in such low regard?
  - b. Who are the “Zaccheuses” in your life? (Perhaps they are people of a different faith, nationality, class, or political affiliation from you.)
  - c. How did Jesus treat Zaccheus?
  - d. What happened as a result of Jesus’ reaching out to Zaccheus?

2. On 2 Corinthians 5:16-21:

- a. In v. 16, what do you think the Apostle Paul means by regarding someone “according to the flesh”?
  - b. If we should regard *no one* according to the flesh, how then are we to regard people?
  - c. According to vv. 18-19 (and v. 19 restates v. 18), what are the two things Paul says Christ does for us?
  - d. If God has already reconciled the world to himself in Christ, why does Paul in the second half of v. 20 urge the Corinthians (and us) to be reconciled to God? (Hint: Paul uses the passive voice in the phrase “be reconciled.”)
  - e. In the first half of v. 20, Paul describes Christians as “ambassadors.” Recall Jamie’s discussion of ambassadors. What are they free to do? What are they *not* free to do?
  - f. Jamie noted that God makes his appeal to the world in various ways. In groups of two or three, complete this sentence: “Based on what I know of you, I think God may be making his appeal to others through your \_\_\_\_\_. ”  
(Fill in the blank with something about that person’s background, personality, gifts, or circumstances.)
  - g. In v. 21, it says that Jesus took our sin upon himself so that we might become “the righteousness of God.” This means that Jesus’ work has put us in a right relationship with God. Why is this truth so important for us to keep in mind as we share the Gospel with others?
3. Who has the Lord put in your field of vision with whom you could share the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Take time over the coming week to pray for those persons and for yourself in finding opportunities to share the Gospel with them.

**Sermon**

*Sermon transcript unavailable this week*