

# Fellowship Groups

## “3 Men, 3 Trees”

Speaker: Eric Kalmbach  
Sermon Date: June 5, 2017.

### LINKS:

This week's sermon:  
<https://markhambiblechapel.app.box.com/v/sermons>

Resources Link:  
<https://mbc.churchcenteronline.com/groups/fellowship-groups>

Eric spoke of 3 men who took very different positions in relation to Trees. In each story, consider what the Tree represents to our condition as sinners and hope for the future...

### 1. A Sinful Man Behind a Tree (Genesis 2)

- God formed Adam and placed him in the garden – a place for him to dwell (Gen 2:7).
- Eve took the forbidden fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil. (Gen 3:6). She then took some to her husband and he also ate it.
- Adam told God what he had done, and blamed Eve for his Sin. (v6-13). They then became physically separated from God.

What does Gen. 3:8 show us (a sinner hiding behind a tree) and how does this contrast to Gen. 3:21? How can we relate to this as believers today?

### 2. A Seeking Man Up A Tree – Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10).

- Plight of the Sinner - Zacchaeus was rich and influential, but also a despised publican (or tax collector for Rome).
- Sinner becomes a seeker - When Jesus came to Jericho, He ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree where he waited for Jesus to pass by (**Luke 18:17**).
- Provision of the Savior (Salvation) - Jesus already knew Zacchaeus and everything about him and called him by name to come down immediately for he wanted to stay at his house.
- Perplexity of the Sceptics - Many murmured because Jesus went to be the guest of a known sinner.
- Proof of Salvation - Zacchaeus stood up and voluntarily announced that he would give half of what he owned to the poor and repay fourfold all he had abused.

Contrast Jesus' mission with Zacchaeus' reaction to his encounter with Jesus. Could he purchase his Salvation? (v8-10).

### 3. A Sinless Man On A Tree – Christ (Gal. 3:13). *(This is a partial quote from Deut. 21:23.)*

- All are sinners because we have broken God's law.
- But - there is hope for all who have broken the law and are therefore under its curse.
- Hope is not in "religion" but in Christ who had redeemed us from the curse of the law.
- Christ redeemed us by becoming "a curse for us." – substitutionary redemption
- the "curse of the law" was transferred from sinners to Christ (**I Peter 3:18**).

### What does it mean?

What do Trees Represent in each story?

1. A Sinful Man Behind a Tree (Gen 2, 3)

Are there “Trees” in our lives that God intended for good, but we hide behind?

2. A Seeking Man up a Tree (Luke 19:1-10)

What does Luke 19:1-3 show us (a sinner up a tree)? How does this change our outlook on worldly riches and pursuits?

3. A Sinless Man On a Tree (Gal 3:13)

### **Expand**

4. **A Sincere Man Under A Tree – Nathanael**

Read **John 1:45-51** and discuss.

What does this say about God’s interest in our lives?

What can we conclude Nathanael was meditating on, and how does it relate to our discussion of “trees and man”?

5. **A Saved Man Like A Tree** – the Christian (Psa. 1:1-3). **Psalm 1** describes the saved man as a blessed man who leads a spotless and prosperous life – one that is in accord with God’s word and contrasted with the ungodly who shall perish.

V1: What are the characteristics of a saved man?

V2. What is the saved man NOT influenced by?

V3 How can we compare the saved man with a tree?