“Transforming Grace”
(Zac’s story - Luke 19:1-10)

Sunday 19 November 2017
The story of Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10
“Before coming to Christ I thought I was a good kid!”
The real transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus is that he can take a heart of stone and turn it into a heart of flesh.
“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you & move you to follow my decrees & be careful to keep my laws.”

Ezekiel 36:26-27
True transformation

Cruel  →  Kind

Greedy  →  Generous

Self obsessed  →  Others centred
This type of transformation is available to EVERY follower of Jesus ... IF

You’ll take the first step and recognize your need for change
What would you change?
“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Luke 5:31-32
REALIZATION

We are all sick!

“There is none righteous, not even one.”

(Romans 3:10)
Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

1 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.
Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.
Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

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.”
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.”
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.”
1. God hasn’t given up on you, even if everyone else has
Jesus saw something that only he could see.

He didn’t see the man Zacchaeus was ... 

He saw the man Zacchaeus could be!
When Jesus sees you, he sees the person you can be.
It is possible
You can change
God hasn’t given up on you
2. Your transformation can (and should) begin right now
“Today salvation has come to this house!”
3. Your transformation begins with a first step
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 ...”
The change in heart led to a change of behaviour
PAUL
“You are saved by grace through faith, not of works so that no one can boast.”

JAMES
“I agree. And if you have that saving faith, it will be demonstrated by good works, because faith without works is dead.”

PAUL
“Exactly. Because just as we are saved by faith, AND we are created to do good works in Christ Jesus.”
We are saved through faith

Not because of my goodness ... but because of God’s goodness
It was **personal**

*It was **public***

*It was **possible***

It was a **priority**
What’s the first step for you?
What’s the end result of this story from Luke 19?

After meeting Jesus, Zacchaeus was not the man he used to be.
Where are you in the process?

Sinner
Observer
Participant
Seeker
Follower
Radically transformed

Today salvation can come to your house, to your life, to your heart.

Today you can start over.
Let’s pray