

NOTES:

You are not enough, you'll never be enough, and that's okay, because God's grace is enough for you.

Enough is our Concordia University Texas theme for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Friends, Jesus sees you.

Sometimes, the loneliest place can be in the midst of a crowd. Once, I was at a party with about fifty people. Everyone seemed to know someone else, and as I scanned the room, I saw people laughing, chatting, and sharing stories. I was off to the side, taking it in and just wishing someone would come up to me and simply ask me my name. No one did, which made me want to get out of there as quickly as possible. I just wanted to be seen.

Have you ever felt like this?

In our focused story today that we picked out of God's Word for you, Zacchaeus can relate to not being seen. He was short and had to climb a tree just to get a glimpse of Jesus entering his town. Zacchaeus was used to being overlooked and his insecurity probably had something to do with his choice of occupation as a tax collector, where people had to see and listen to him. But Jesus sees him, eats with him, and ends up transforming Zacchaeus' life to the point that he offers to pay back people he had taken advantage of as a tax collector. Zacchaeus knew he was not enough to live up to God's perfect standards and had failed, but Jesus saw him and shared his grace to show that with him, Zacchaeus was seen and loved.

You too are seen by Jesus. He gave his life for you because He, not only loves you, He likes you. You don't have to pretend around Jesus. Max Lucado, a famous Christian author, describes Jesus like this: "he loves you just the way you are, but refuses to leave you that way." You are not enough on your own, but through Jesus' grace and mercy, you are connected in relationship to the one who is totally enough for you.

READ

Luke 19:1-6 and answer these questions:

1. Have you ever felt unseen? How did it make you feel?

2. Are there any things about you (physical features/abilities, mental capacities, skills/talents) that remind you that you aren't perfect?

3. What does it mean to you that despite the areas where you fall short, Jesus sees you and loves you?

4. How has God remind you lately that you are seen and loved?



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. ³He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamorefig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. 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.

- Luke 19:1-6

NOTES:

DIG DEEPER

(now, later, alone, in a group):

1. Read Luke 19:1-10

2. In verse 7, the people start to talk about how Jesus wants to eat with a sinner. What do you think were the implications of Jesus choosing to eat with Zacchaeus? Have you ever felt judged for spending time with "sinners"?

3. According to verse 8, how much does Zacchaeus say he is willing to donate and pay back? Do you think this shows evidence of a changed heart? Has your life ever changed in response to God's grace and mercy?

4. Verse 10 gives Jesus' purpose and mission for his time on earth. How do you think you can help be part of his mission this week?

ACTION STEP for GROUPS:

Go around and say to the person on your left, "You are seen by Jesus and are enough because of his grace." After everyone has gone, pray this prayer together:

PRAYER:

Jesus, we thank you that you see us and know us, and that by your death and resurrection, you redeem us and continue to be enough for us. Continue to remind us of this truth as we also help to see those around us. Thank you for your grace, mercy, and love. In Jesus name, by the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

