

GOD WHO SEES: HE WANTED TO SEE

Scripture used: [Luke 19:1-10 \(NIV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

Continuing the “God Who Sees” series, Pastor Dan Monroe led us through the story of tax collector Zaccheus’s life-transforming encounter with Jesus. In an era with constant and gigantic overflows of information, we often wonder if we are truly seeing, and being seen. Being seen is essential to our identity, well-being, happiness, and fulfillment. Our series is about being seen - in reality - by God. Our Scripture today ends with the awesome assurance that “the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost”.

KEY POINTS

1. **Even when we feel short or inadequate, God sees us.** Our Scripture today is multi-layered, and brings different perspectives around who Zaccheus saw; who the crowd saw; and who Jesus saw; and how each responded. Zaccheus wanted to see but had no expectation of being seen. He had lived a life of compensation: making up for his many perceived deficiencies and his low self-esteem. He had used his official position to accumulate wealth, sometimes in devious or immoral ways. That had made him very unpopular. He was widely seen as a sinner. He was physically short, and also vaguely aware that he was spiritually short. The crowd was confused and dismayed, as Jesus picked the “worst sinner” to be the guest of the Savior.
2. Pastor Dan is physically short and has used a periscope device to see the stage in crowded concerts. This is **healthy compensation**, an acknowledgment of challenges and a willingness to find solutions that don’t lead to internal resentment or pride that looks down on others. Too often, when we feel like we aren’t enough in life, we take the route of unhealthy compensation, which leads to internalized feeling of gross inadequacy or harmful pride. Pastor Dan shared how we should not be defined by our limitations but to trust the God who sees us and is able to empower us with His grace. He used the illustration of [Muggsy Bogues](#), a former basketball player, who was the shortest NBA player ever. He developed amazing techniques of agility and speed to rival the best in the NBA. He spent a lifetime overcoming superficial judgment, in addition to surviving an extremely difficult childhood.
3. In our story, Jesus is on his way to the cross. **He stays on task to seek and to save the lost.** He calls Zaccheus by name, which comes as a shock. Then Zaccheus obeys, which is unexpected for his position. He is yearning for true contact, even fellowship, with the Savior. He is transformed from a greedy man into a generous man. From weakness, limitations, and brokenness, Zaccheus is given a chance at finding strength and realizing the fullness of life.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - In what ways do you struggle with feeling “not enough”? This could be feeling like you aren’t tall enough, smart enough, credentialed enough, healthy enough, good enough, etc. What are the circumstances that tend to cause you to feel this way (think about sources of comparison, what voices come from inside versus from without)?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Consider the encounter that Jesus has with Zaccheus in [Luke 19:1-10 \(NIV\)](#). As Pastor Dan noted in his message, Zaccheus compensated for his short physical stature by pursuing a career that led to great wealth, even as it isolated him from his community. He found a way to “overcompensate” for his shortness, but in an unhealthy way that did not lead to joy and thriving. What was it about his encounter with Jesus that transformed Zaccheus from an overcompensating tax collector to someone who responded to Jesus’ invitation with radical generosity for the poor and those he had wronged? How does Jesus’ Presence in our lives speak to our feelings of not being “enough”? How is the grace and love that Jesus offers different from other sources that we might use to compensate for feeling “not enough”? Consider what ways we try to compensate that lead to greater comparison with others, and what ways lead to freedom from comparison with others.
- 3) **DO** - Spend time in reflection this week noticing times we feel “not enough” and what circumstances cause these feelings to arise. Bring our insights to God in prayer and create space for an encounter with the Presence of Jesus that will free us from comparison and feelings of “not enough” in the same way that Zaccheus experienced this freedom when he encountered Jesus. Join us next Sunday as we continue our series, “The God Who Sees.”