

## The Last Sunday after Epiphany ~ Sunday, March 3, 2019

### “Restoring the Masterpiece ~ Unworthiness”

#### Luke 19:1-10

The people around us can sometimes fail to recognize our \_\_\_\_\_ and see us not as a masterpiece, but as a cheap knock-off or fake. When this happens, we can find ourselves discarded or \_\_\_\_\_.

One of the most basic human needs is to feel \_\_\_\_\_; to feel like our life matters; that we’re needed; that we have meaning and purpose; that we have \_\_\_\_\_; that we’re \_\_\_\_\_. Unfortunately, we live in a world that tricks us into believing that we can satisfy this basic need—that we can find our value and worth—in \_\_\_\_\_ things.

#### The 4 “A’s” of WORLDLY WORTH

- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ How do I look?
- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ What have I accomplished?
- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ How well am I liked?
- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ Do I have it all?

None of these standards are \_\_\_\_\_—they’re constantly changing—and there’s always going to be someone who is \_\_\_\_\_ than I am.

It is not so much externals that are important when looking at someone’s life or when assessing their value, but rather the \_\_\_\_\_ of their life—the impact—large or small—that they’ve had on the world around them.

Our sense of value and worth needs to be based on something that doesn’t \_\_\_\_\_, but that will last. And there’s only one thing that doesn’t change—one thing that’s going to stand the test of time—and that’s what God \_\_\_\_\_ of us.

“I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.” (Jeremiah 31:3)

When we understand that our value and our worth come not from external things, but from the fact that we were made in God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and

that He \_\_\_\_\_ us with an everlasting love, we begin to see ourselves differently. This shift in understanding plays an important role in the \_\_\_\_\_ of our hearts.

“A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way.” (Lk 19:1-4)

By the world’s standards, Zacchaeus may have had a lot going for him, yet he was \_\_\_\_\_ bankrupt. Here was a guy who had it all, yet something was \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 3 TRUTHS THAT UNCOVER OUR HIDDEN VALUE

**Truth #1. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_.**  
Luke tells us that when Jesus entered the city of Jericho, Zacchaeus was \_\_\_\_\_ to see Him.

#### 2 SIGNS OF ZACCHAEUS’ DESPERATION

- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_  
There was something in Zacchaeus that made him \_\_\_\_\_.
- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_  
He was willing to take a \_\_\_\_\_ and step out because he had nothing to \_\_\_\_\_.

“When Jesus came by, He looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. “Zacchaeus!” he said. “Quick, come down! For I must be a guest in your home today. (Luke 19:5)

Jesus not only knew Zacchaeus’ name, but also his \_\_\_\_\_.

Like Zacchaeus, we can find ourselves up a tree at times—we can find ourselves out on a limb—when we believe that because of what’s happening in our life that God has \_\_\_\_\_ us.

“Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.” (Psalm 139:7-10)

God is only there, He's also \_\_\_\_\_.

“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight. But even the hairs of your head are all counted. Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.” (Luke 12:7)

The deepest expression of love is \_\_\_\_\_.

**What kinds of things have you done to get attention?**

**Truth #2. Jesus** \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus acknowledged that Zacchaeus was a \_\_\_\_\_—that he had value and worth—that he had a unique identity—that he had a \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ him up, while everybody else was putting him down.

### HOW VALUABLE ARE WE TO GOD?

- ◆ God \_\_\_\_\_ you long before He knit you together in your mother's womb; long before the foundation of the universe. And at just the right moment, God \_\_\_\_\_ you in His \_\_\_\_\_.
- ◆ Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ for you—for all the wrong things you've done and will do.
- ◆ God put His \_\_\_\_\_ within you to \_\_\_\_\_ and equip you.
- ◆ God wants you to \_\_\_\_\_ with Him forever in \_\_\_\_\_.

### VALUE IS DETERMINED BY

**#1. The \_\_\_\_\_ who made it.**

“Everything God created is good and nothing is to be rejected if it's received with thanksgiving.” (1 Timothy 4:4)

**#2. How much someone is willing to \_\_\_\_\_ for it.**

“God paid for you with the precious life blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.” (1 Peter 1:19)

“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion for the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you. See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands!” (Isaiah 49:15)

**Where do you find your sense of worth? How valued do you feel?**

**Truth #3. Jesus** \_\_\_\_\_.

One of the greatest \_\_\_\_\_ of Christianity is that no matter who you are or what you've done, God still wants to have a \_\_\_\_\_ with you.

“But the crowds were displeased” they said, ‘He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner.’” (Luke 19:7)

Like Zacchaeus, we've all done things that have \_\_\_\_\_ others—and not one of us here this morning is \_\_\_\_\_. Thankfully, in His grace and mercy; in His compassion and love, Jesus is far more interested in \_\_\_\_\_ us than He is in \_\_\_\_\_ us—and His love for us is \_\_\_\_\_.

“Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me; I will never turn away anyone who believes in me.” (John 6:37)

“But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.” (Lk 15:20)

Our Heavenly Father longs for us to come \_\_\_\_\_—He longs to shower us with His \_\_\_\_\_ and welcome us when we return to Him.

**Have you experienced Jesus' unconditional love for you?**

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Zacchaeus had an encounter that day that \_\_\_\_\_ his life forever.

“Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, ‘I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have overcharged people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much.’ Jesus responded, ‘Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.’” (Luke 19: 8-10)

The story of Zacchaeus shows us that Jesus came to seek and save the \_\_\_\_\_, so that He can \_\_\_\_\_ us to our original beauty and display us for all the world to see.

**When was the last time you experienced Jesus?**

**Zacchaeus was willing to climb a tree to encounter Jesus—what are you willing to do?**