

Behold a Savior

Luke 19:10

Our text verse today is set within an account that most Bible students know well. Many of us have heard of the encounter Jesus had with Zacchaeus, the little tax collector who climbed a tree in order to catch a glimpse of Jesus as He passed by. Zacchaeus likely wasn't expecting the events that transpired that day, but Jesus knew of his desire and called for him to come down from the tree. During that divine encounter, Zacchaeus met the Lord in salvation, coming to faith in Christ. Up until that moment he had only heard about Jesus, but following their encounter, he knew Jesus as his Savior and Lord.

As we approach Christmas, we hear more spoken of Jesus than at other times throughout the year. It provides a wonderful opportunity for believers to share their faith in Christ, presenting the Gospel to many who have not heard. Like Zacchaeus, many may have heard of Jesus, but they do not know Him in a personal way. In fact, their knowledge of Jesus is often limited to what they have heard about what we believe. They may not admit it, but many contemplate the life of this Man, Jesus, during the Christmas season.

This single verse, words spoken of Jesus Himself, beautifully articulate His life and purpose for coming to earth. I want to examine the [certainties](#) Jesus revealed in the text as we consider the thought: **Behold a Savior.**

I. The Incarnation of Christ (10) – [For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.](#) In case there was any doubt, Jesus affirmed that He was the Christ, the promised Messiah. He had come to earth as the prophets of old predicted. He was the Son of Man, a term Jesus often used, referring to Himself. It spoke of His humanity, and declared that He was God in flesh.

- Particularly at Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Lord, His incarnation. It was at that moment in time that the eternal God condescended to the lowly estate of man. The Sovereign laid aside His glory to come to earth robed in flesh, born of a virgin womb. One cannot embrace Christ as Savior and Lord apart from His incarnation. Like Zacchaeus, we have to believe that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of man, robed in human flesh.
- There were doubters in Jesus' day, and those doubters remain today, but His birth cannot be denied or disproven. It is revealed in Scripture as divine truth. [Luke 2:11 – For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.](#) [John 1:14 – And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, \(and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,\) full of grace and truth.](#) [Matt.27:54 – Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.](#)

- The life of Christ is proven historically as well. Many ancient Jewish and other historians recorded the life and death of Jesus Christ. He is the central figure of time and eternity. Never has a life so affected humanity as the life of Christ. For thousands of years the Israelites looked forward to His coming, and now some 2,000 years following His life and death, we still preach, teach, and worship the name of Jesus.

II. The Mission of Christ (10) – For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Jesus also affirmed that He came to earth with purpose. His was not a life that was lived without consequence. Granted His life was one of prominence and influence. He preached the Word with authority that rivaled any teaching they had heard. He had power over nature, having the ability to calm the raging seas. He had power of humanity, healing the sick and even raising the dead. These were all wonderful, revealing that He was in fact the Christ. However, such miracles were not the purpose for His coming; He came to seek and save.

- There are countless accounts of the saving power of Christ, delivering those bound in sin. He sought them out, coming where they were to provide for their redemption. He sought out those whom society had rejected and given up on. He sought the woman at the well, ashamed to be seen in public. He sought the woman caught in adultery. He sought the lepers, the blind, the halt, and the maimed. He sought the hopeless and alone. He sought those who were steeped in religious tradition, those trusting in riches and position, and even those who claimed loyalty to the Romans politically. Jesus came to those who stood in need of a Savior!
- He came to seek and to save! The word save has the idea of “*deliverance or protection, to heal, preserve, save, and make whole.*” Those He sought out stood in need of deliverance. They needed healing spiritually; they were undone before God, and needed to be made whole. Jesus came to provide all of that; He came to save! **Luke 5:32 – I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.** **John 12:27 – Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.**

III. The Corruption of Sin (10) – For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Zacchaeus recognized his need for Christ and looked to Him for salvation. Jesus declared that He had come to seek and save those who were lost. This is a term we don't hear as often as we used too, but its truth remains. Our modern culture may not understand the word or the truth it reveals. Jesus speaks of those who were separated from Him and the Father due to sin. This includes all who are born into this life. Due to the fall of Adam in the Garden, giving into temptation, sin entered the human race and we all stand fallen in sin before God. **Rom.3:10 – As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one.** **Rom.3:23 – For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.** **Rom.6:23 – For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Isaiah 53:6 – All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. Jesus declared that all are guilty and condemned due to sin, and stand in need of salvation in Him.

IV. The Application for Us (10) – We have considered a statement Jesus made during a conversation with Zacchaeus thousands of years ago, but what does all of this mean to us? How can we apply what Jesus said to our lives today? In this statement we discover:

A. The Provision (10) – For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. At this moment, Calvary was yet in the distance, but Jesus would eventually go to the cross to bear our sin and endure the judgement we deserved in order for us to be saved. He came to this earth as a Man in order to offer Himself the perfect, atoning sacrifice for sin. We were all guilty and condemned by sin. We owed a debt to God that we could not pay. We had no hope within ourselves of ever being pardoned from sin and reconciled to God. Jesus provided what we never could. He died in our place, securing our salvation on the cross. He conquered death and hell, rising again in triumphant, resurrection life for our justification. Because He lives, those who are saved by His grace, have the hope and assurance of eternal life in Him! Matt.1:21 – And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

B. The Obligation (10) – For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. As Jesus encountered Zacchaeus, he had to respond to the call of Jesus. At Jesus' command, Zacchaeus came down from the tree, in faith believing that Jesus was the Christ. Jesus secured the means of salvation for humanity, but we must respond to His call to come in obedient faith for salvation. We must see ourselves lost and undone before God, standing in need of cleansing from our sin, and trusting in the finished work of Christ by faith. It isn't enough to recognize that Jesus lived and died for the salvation of men. You must come to Him by faith, with a repentant heart, believing in Him for salvation. I can't do that for you; you alone are responsible for your salvation in Christ! John 3:16 – For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:18 – He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

C. The Restoration (10) – For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Jesus declared that He had come to seek and save that which was lost. He came to redeem sinners from sin, to pay the debt they owed, and provide restoration to God the Father. Zacchaeus stood in need of salvation, and Jesus declared – this day is salvation come to this house.

- There is great hope and comfort in these words of Jesus. He came to seek and save those who are lost in sin. He didn't set limits on whom salvation would be offered and whom it wouldn't. He came to seek and save those who are lost. I am thankful Jesus didn't set a list of prerequisites for salvation. He came to save us from our sin. He is able and willing to save all who respond to Him by faith. There are none so wicked that he cannot save. If you are here today and have yet to receive Christ as your Savior, there is hope for you. He came for you! He died for your sin, purchasing your redemption! Salvation is available to you today if you will respond to Him by faith!

Conclusion: I am thankful Jesus was willing to come for our salvation. He came to seek and save that which was lost. He bore our sin on the cross, fully satisfying the righteous demands of God. He took our place and died for us. He rose again triumphant, providing eternal life for all who believe. Do you know Christ as your personal Savior? I hope you see Him as more than a Babe in the manger, but also as Savior and Lord. If you have yet to respond to the call for salvation, come to Him today. He wants to save you, if you will only come by faith.

Christian, I pray you are reminded of all you have received in Christ. I hope this stirring reminder will challenge us to proclaim the Gospel to a lost and dying world. Many stand in need of salvation, and it is the greatest gift anyone can receive.