

Companions IN PRAYER



Sisters of St. Clare
Saginaw, MI

In our Gospel story today, we are told that Zacchaeus was curious about this man called Jesus. Because of his curiosity he ran ahead and climbed a tree so that he would have a good view of Jesus as he passed by.

This picture of Zacchaeus climbing a tree has always seemed amusing to me. Here we have a short, wealthy man, scrambling up a sycamore tree for a better view of Jesus. Some people must have laughed. But Zacchaeus was curious, and his curiosity made him climb that tree.

Curiosity draws us into new areas. Because we are curious we are interested in other people's lives. A friend told me that she was very curious to know about the recent baptism of the future king of England, Prince George. The ceremony was closed to the public, but she wished she could have seen what they did and what they said at the service. I suppose we might call this kind of curiosity, "idle curiosity," but it is part of who we are as human beings and our curiosity often adds interest to our lives.

In addition to making our lives more interesting, curiosity can catch our imaginations and move us to new understandings of things that we thought we already knew. Curiosity can bring us new knowledge and unexpected surprises. This was certainly true for Zacchaeus. Imagine his surprise when Jesus spotted him, called him down, and told him that he wanted to spend the day at his house.

How would we have responded if we were Zacchaeus? What would we have done? I probably would have said, "Oh please come Jesus, but first I have to run home and clean the house and check what's in the refrigerator."

But we are told that Zacchaeus is so transformed by the invitation of Jesus that he doesn't worry about cleaning up his house; instead he cleans up his relationship to others. He immediately promises to give half his possessions to the poor. He also promises to pay back four times the amount of money to any person he has defrauded. His curiosity to know Jesus has resulted in a new perspective on life. Jesus tells the crowd, "salvation has come to this house."

Are we, like Zacchaeus, ready to let our curiosity lead us to Jesus? Are we ready to welcome Jesus into our lives? Jesus calls to us just as he called to Zacchaeus. Jesus did not call to Zacchaeus because he was a perfect person. Jesus knew Zacchaeus was a tax collector, a person others called a sinner. The good news in this Gospel is that we are who we are - young, old, wealthy, struggling, sick, or healthy. We are all in different circumstances, but the important thing is that Jesus wants us all. He wants us not because we are saints, and not because we do it all right, but because we are curious and we care.

curious **ZACCHAEUS**

(LK 19:1-10)

We are invited at Eucharist today to come dine with Jesus. Are we curious about what that might mean for us? Might we be changed? Might we find new truth? Might we find new meaning in life? Jesus calls to us. Let us invite him into our lives. He wants to bring salvation to us even as he brought salvation to Zacchaeus long ago.

(We are interested in your thoughts. Let us know at:
<http://srsclare.com/about-us/companions-in-prayer-newsletter>)

Sr. Laura and Sisters
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