

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Cutting Through the Noise - Part 1

Heather Packett

Introduction

We live in a world filled with noise. Even with Covid restrictions and limited social interactions, the noise is still around, perhaps louder than ever. You are not alone if you feel overwhelmed. In the midst of all this, serenity and peace can only be found in Jesus. Zacchaeus believed Jesus could transform his life. Despite his physical limitation, he found a way to “cut through” the crowd by climbing a tree. The Israelites identified Zacchaeus by his job as a tax collector for the Roman Empire, but Jesus saw him for who he was. Being in the presence of Jesus bathed Zacchaeus in His purity. He was made new by taking a first step: climbing a tree.

Read

Luke 19:1-10

Discuss

1. After reading Luke 19:1-10, re-tell Zacchaeus' story in your own words. What stood out to you and why?
2. What does this passage teach us about Jesus? What does it teach us about people?
3. Pastor Heather points out three different sources of noise from Zacchaeus' story that hindered him from seeing Jesus: His physical limitation, other people's opinions and attitudes, and self-doubt. Which of these is your loudest noise at the moment? Identify the biggest noise and share with the group.
4. Read Hebrew 11:1. What is your understanding of this verse? Zacchaeus had the desire to listen to and see Jesus. His faith enabled him to persevere through the hindrances. How can you strengthen your faith to persevere through your current reality and challenges? What (metaphorical) tree do you need to climb?

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5. Zacchaeus desperately wanted to see and listen to Jesus. Have you ever experienced something of significance in your life because you were listening to the Holy Spirit? What was your thought process and how did you know it was the Holy Spirit? Is there an area in your life that you need the Holy Spirit to speak into right now?
6. When we live in obedience to God's prompting, there is a ripple effect that changes the world around us. Obedience will change our own lives, but it also has the power to transform others. What practical first step of obedience can you do that may bring this ripple effect to people around you?

Respond

Zacchaeus saw Jesus as his source of hope. As believers we need to have the same attitude towards Jesus. We need to seek Him, go to Him and listen to His voice. Only by doing this will we be able to block out the plethora of noise around us and clearly hear Him. Identify one or two things that you need to shut out so you can hear Jesus. Commit to making this change today.