

Script – Zacchaeus Meets Jesus

[The opening scene is in Zacchaeus' tax booth]

Narrator: Zacchaeus felt very important as he hurried through the streets of Jericho. He did not like to be pushed by the crowds of poor people. He greeted the merchants, but they were not very friendly. He felt lonely. He smiled as he came to his tax collectors' booth. He placed his writing boards, pins and ink carefully on the table.

Zacchaeus: [to himself, with feeling, sitting down at a table] Today should be a good day!

Zacchaeus: [to Person 1] What is your name? How much have you made this month? [holding out his hand] Your tax will be 20 dollars. [Person 1 scowls, but reaches into pocket to pay him]

Zacchaeus: [to Person 2, squinted his eyes] Your tax will be 30 dollars.

Person 2: [with feeling] That is too much!

Zacchaeus: You can pay it or go to jail.

Narrator: All day Zacchaeus collected taxes from the people. [Zacchaeus goes home, smiling] He knew that he charged the people too much money.

Zacchaeus: [to himself] That's how I got to be a rich man!

[Scene change to street and the sycamore tree]

Narrator: One day, Zacchaeus heard that Jesus had come to his town.

Zacchaeus: [to himself, with feeling] I must see him! Everyone says He is a good man and a wonderful teacher. I must see Him for myself.

Narrator: There was such a crowd that he could not get near Jesus. Zacchaeus was so short; he could not see Jesus at all, even when he stood on tiptoes. He pushed and shoved, but the people shoved him back. Then Zacchaeus had an idea.

Zacchaeus: [to himself, with feeling] I'll run ahead of the crowd. I know just the place.

Narrator: He ran and ran till he came to a sycamore tree by the side of the road. Quickly, he climbed up on a limb and sat down. He sat very still.

Zacchaeus: [to himself, confidently] Now I will see Jesus. I hope He walks right below me. [smiling] Jesus would be surprised to see such an important man like me in a tree! But He will never know.

Narrator: Zacchaeus looked down as the crowd came close...there was Jesus looking him right in the eye.

Jesus: Come down Zacchaeus. I'll come to your house today.

[Scene change to Zacchaeus' home]

Narrator: Zacchaeus showed Jesus the way to his big home. He could hardly think of anything to say to this great teacher. The people that had been with Jesus were very unhappy.

Disciple: Jesus is a good man. He is a great teacher. He should not go the house of that bad man. Tax collectors cheat the people.

Narrator: The dinner was delicious. Zacchaeus had told his servants to server the very best. During the meal, Jesus talked about His father in heaven.

Zacchaeus: [standing] Lord, I will give half of all that I have to the poor. And, to every person that I have cheated, I will pay back four times the amount I have taken.

Narrator: Everyone was supposed to hear these words. Jesus smiled. He knew Zacchaeus was sorry for the bad things he had done.

Jesus: Today salvation has come to this house.

The End