

# God's Great Plans

## *Zacchaeus and the Secret of Mark's Gospel*

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Luke 19:1-10

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**Introduction:** God has a plan. His plan is not random and God's plan is good. God's plan wends its way through all times, all places and all people. Yes, God even has a plan for you! The prophet Jeremiah says it this way: "' For I know the plans I have for you,'" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" (Jeremiah 29:11). Join us as we look at glimpses God has given us in scripture that will shed light on God's plan for our lives and His plans for the world in which we live.

**Prayer:** Father, we are eager to see you, just as Zaccheus was eager. Show yourself to us through Mark's account of your encounter with Zaccheus. Amen.

**Review:** How did you answer Richard Sterns' three questions? (Where do you find meaning and purpose in your life? Are you willing to be open to God's will for your life? How many loaves do you have?) Did you see some part of what Jesus has planned for you to do or be?

**Read:** Luke 19:1-10

### **Discussion:**

- 1) Why do you think Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus? What kind of interaction was he expecting? Have you ever gone out of your way to see someone famous? What did you expect from that encounter?
- 2) What reactions are provoked when Jesus goes to stay at Zacchaeus' house? What do the crowds mutter? How does Zacchaeus respond? Which response would you have?
- 3) Jesus responds to similar complaints in Mark 2:16-17 and Matthew 9:11-13. Could you see yourself making a similar complaint? When have you been criticized for the company you keep? How did you respond?
- 4) Jesus states his purpose in verse 10. Do you see yourself in this statement? Who do you know that needs to hear this good news?

**Application:** Think about your heart response to this encounter. What does God want you to learn?

**Prayer:** Father, thank you for making room for us in your presence. Help us to make room for others who need to hear that you have a place for them as well. Amen