

## Table Manners

Invite yourself over

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Bumper:

Welcome to Southside Church

**How has your week been? How would you label your week?**

How many of you **would call your week a “holy week”?**

Probably not very many!

I know **we all understand the need to ensure our public health** by staying home and only **going out for essential services** to slow the spread of this virus.

But I’m not sure **many of us would call what we have been experiencing Holy!**

In fact I’m sure you have felt like this week was a **HOLD UP** week rather than a **HOLY WEEK!**

But **today the church of Jesus Christ** all around the world has entered into what is called Holy Week!

Some of you might be saying, **wow that sounds great, because I need a Holy Week!**

We have been **HELD UP** in our homes **wondering if there is any hope of getting back to normal!**

**HELD UP with your jobs**, in fact many have **even lost their jobs.**

You're wondering **when we will get back to normal.**

I Want normal, I need to find work!

It is easy to **wonder in a time like this**, can there be **hope beyond this moment** can we experience **something Holy in this mess!**

**Is there:**

- Hope beyond the **feeling of being out of control?**
- Hope beyond the **anxiety created by a lost job?**
- Hope beyond the **loss of my senior year?**

- Hope beyond the **fear of this virus** and the **potential harm it may cause?**

The **ANSWER IS yes....**there is Hope!

That **hope is not found** in weeks of being “**held up**” but that hope is **found in a HOLY WEEK!**

When we **understand the events** that took place 2,000 years ago, now called Holy Week, **we can find hope!**

Everything that **happened during this Holy Week**, led to an **event that changed our world forever.**

It would be **really helpful** for you to **take some** of your “**hold up**” time this week to **read the events of the final week of Jesus’ life.**

This **final week of Jesus life** is the **Holy Week.**

You can **chronicle the events of this week** by reading in **all four of the gospel accounts** of Jesus life:

**Matthew** chapter **21**, **Mark** chapter **11**, **Luke** chapter **19**,  
and **John** chapter **12**!

**Read these accounts** and if you **have young children**,  
help **them understand it too**.

To help you we have a **one-page coloring sheet** you can  
download to **teach your children about this holy week!**

Talk with your kids **about each day of the final week of  
Jesus' Life** as He lived out an **epic week of impact in our  
world's history!**

The **events of this week** are so critical because **they led  
up to a curse breaking event** that has **curse-breaking  
power in our lives!**

**Power that goes beyond** any **virus or situation** you might  
face in life!

We are going to be **celebrating the culmination of Holy  
Week** with **two upcoming DIGITAL events**.

**First**, is what we are calling the “**Table to the Cross Experience**” that will be broadcast this Friday, known as Good Friday Apr 10<sup>th</sup>.

Look for **all the broadcast times available** on our website or Southside church Facebook page.

**The Second event is our Overcomers Easter Celebration Services.**

look for **additional times we will offer these services**, look for Online Easter service times on our website!

Holy Week is when Jesus **sealed the deal**, ensuring ultimate **Hope beyond despair, Hope beyond sickness**, and even **Hope beyond death**.

Why....because during Holy Week.....

Jesus **entered into Jerusalem in a triumph parade** that we now call Palm Sunday,

- **Cleansed the temple** on Monday,
- **Teaches in the temple** on Tuesday,
- Wednesday His **betrayers set the trap**,

- Thursday Jesus **shared His final meal around a table with His disciples,**
- Friday **Jesus was crucified and buried!**

Saturday was a **day of darkness** as Jesus **lay dead in the tomb.....**

But Sunday.....Early Sunday morning.....

**Jesus rose from the dead!**

Sealing the deal - **death cannot own us, viruses do not ultimately determine our destiny,** and we have access to an **overcoming, powerful God** who proves:

He is the **victor over death** and through His power we can **have eternal life!**

Hope born from a Holy Week. A gift from God.

**Hold On!** We are not **Held Up** because there is **HOPE!**

***John 3:16 (NIV) <sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.***

Maybe your week has been anything but "Holy," but mark my words!

Jesus followed through on His promise to become the ultimate sacrifice breaking every curse over your life.

***Even the curse of fear and anxiety you feel during this time of covid-19!***

Today as we celebrate Palm Sunday!

A day we remember Jesus' triumphant entry of into the city of Jerusalem on the final week of His life.

**I want us also to consider an encounter Jesus had just days before He entered the city of Jerusalem.**

In fact, this was an encounter Jesus had with another controversial person that sends a powerful message.

Jesus, while on His way to Jerusalem, **actually invites himself over to a man's house to share a meal!**

**It is found in Luke 19.**

Turn in your Bibles to **Luke 19** and follow along with this encounter.

Jesus has been on a journey, a **final journey from the land of Galilee in the North down to Jerusalem.**

**Now before I begin, I just have to tell you, I love this encounter.**

For many it will **already be familiar because of song that some of us learned as a child!**

The **encounter Jesus had** was with a **man named Zacchaeus.**

If you **ever went to church as a little kid** maybe you **heard this song about Zacchaeus.**



It goes like this.....***Zacchaeus was a wee little man a wee little man was he, he climbed up in a sycamore tree for the Lord he wanted to see....and when the Lord came passing by He looked up in the tree...and he said..... Zacchaeus you come down..... for I'm going to your house today!***

Now let me **tell you why this song is so special** to me.

My wife and I have been **foster parents for the several years, and the last placement we had was with three little children.**

And every night we would have the same bedtime ritual.

We would **sit down, read them a story, then go to a children's bible** and read a bible story.

And **without fail**, after we would read the story **little Zion**, the youngest of the three.

Would **flip the bible over, point to a character pictured in a tree on the back** of the book and **ask to sing this song.**

As many of you know, **Zion suddenly and tragically passed away last year**, so you have to know this encounter is precious to me!

Because **little Zion has burned Zacchaeus** into my heart!

Look at this encounter with me:

***Luke 19:1-2 (NIV) <sup>1</sup> Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup> A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy.***

It is important to **note the geography of this encounter.**

As Jesus is **on His way to Jerusalem** He is **passing through Jericho.**

Jericho in Jesus' day **was like a lush resort area**, called the **City of Palms.**

It was **only 15 miles northwest of Jerusalem** and **catered to the wealthy elite.**

In fact, **King Herod built his winter palace there.**

There you would find **well-to-do traders** and the **politically elite** gathering in **this location**.

It was no wonder that **Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector**, would live here.

We are not talking about just **any tax collector**, he was **the chief tax collector!**

The **top of the pyramid**, the one who would **not only profit from the transactions of the rich and famous**.

But he would **skim off a percentage** of all of the **tax collectors in his network**.

He would have **been the one wearing a Rolex watch and driving a Pink Cadillac** living in the **City of Palms** lavishing in luxury.

You could say he was the ***chief of all cheats***, had the **swag of all swindlers**, he was the **scummiest of scammer's**.

Remember the **first meal we explored in week one** of our **Table Manners series?**

Jesus **dining with the enemy** Matthew, a tax collector?

Zacchaeus would have made **Matthew's tax collecting seem like a "mom and pop" organization.**

Zacchaeus was **beyond despised, he would have been hated.**

The other **notable fact about Zacchaeus** was that he was very short.

So, as the song goes, **this "wee little man" was the CEO of a massive enterprise and yet he was hungering for something more in his life.**

This is why he went out of his way to see Jesus!

**Luke 19: <sup>3</sup>He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.**

I find it amazing that **no matter where people are in life, they are searching for something.**

I've seen this **searching during this time of the corona virus.**

People who seem to have it all, **seeking for answers to life's big questions.**

Have you noticed the **questions people have during this time?**

People are **searching, longing, desiring an encounter that would bring them hope during the disruptions created in their life!**

Many were asking, **who is this Jesus that can restore the sight of the blind, heal the lame, bring hope to the captive.**

In fact, **just before Jesus made his way down the street where Zacchaeus was located, He healed a blind man.**

The **blind man hoping to physically see.**

And now **Zacchaeus had to see this miracle worker who has the power to help him see what is missing in his life.**

He not only wanted to see Jesus physically, he wanted to see who Jesus really was in His character.

**Could Jesus do for internally what He did for that man physically?**

He wanted to see the miracle worker named Jesus so he might know him.

**Zacchaeus was so motivated that he took the initiative.**

He humbled himself by climbing a tree to get into proximity to Jesus.

**What are you willing to do to get into proximity with Jesus?**

Did you know **when you humble yourself**, Jesus will see you!

You know **when you seek God you will find Him**, Jesus is always looking for those who are seeking Him!

Look at what happened next. **Luke 19:5**

***<sup>5</sup> When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."***

Oh man **this is powerful**, don't miss this part of the encounter.

Think about this:

Jesus **pressed on every side by a crowd of hundreds** and **sees Zacchaeus up in the tree!**

What a **powerful reality**, Jesus sees him!

Have you ever **felt insignificant like no one can see you?**

**Jesus sees you... Jesus sees you even when you feel insignificant!**

- Hey Moms and Dads who **have just been unexpectedly thrust into the teaching profession at home....Jesus sees you!**
- You who just **lost your job....Jesus sees you!**
- You **with the corona virus .....Jesus sees you!**
- You **single parent.....Jesus sees you!**

- **High school and college student who's senior year has been cut short....Jesus sees you!**
- **You who suffer with constant insecurity.....Jesus sees you!**
- **Husband and wife whose marriage is on the rocks.....Jesus sees you!**
- **You who are struggling with an addiction ....Jesus sees you!**
- **You who are suffering from a diagnosis and filled with fear....Jesus sees you!**

**Not only did Jesus see Zacchaeus but He knew him!**

**You see, Jesus wasn't simply a mere man, He was the God man!**

**Jesus was fully human and fully divine!**

**The Son of God who has the supernatural ability to know what was in the heart of Zacchaeus!**

**Jesus knew him and stopped in his tracks and spoke to him!**

**Did you know Jesus knows you!**



Jesus knows **what you think**, The supernatural Jesus **knows what you feel**, He knows **what you believe**, He **knows the real you**.

The you..... **you try to hide from everyone else**.

Or maybe you, like Zacchaeus are **trying to over compensate for your limitations!**

**And yet Jesus knows you and calls you by name!**

**I remember when Jesus called me by name!**

I was at the end of myself, **I had just come clean to my wife about all the sin** I had committed.

I was **feeling all alone**, and **Jesus saw me** and **called me by name**.

“Wynne follow me, **do what I tell you to do, when I tell you to do it**.

Let me **clean you up**, let me **guide you into a new way of living**.

**“Wynne let me worry about your marriage you just follow me!**

**Say what I tell you to say, do what I tell you to do, go where I tell you to go and all will be fine.”**

**“I can take your mess-ups and make them into a message, I can take your brokenness and broker a new way of living.**

**I can take your problems and turn them into pathways.”**

**“You follow me and I will change everything!”**

**I did what Jesus told me to do. I followed Him and He directed my life to this place today!**

**This is what happened with Zacchaeus. Jesus saw him and called him by name!**

**And He said “come down immediately!”**

**Some of us here today need obey the call of Jesus to “come down immediately”:**

- **Come down off your high horse**

- **Come down from your fears**
- **Come down from your self-reliance**
- **Come down from your anger**
- **Come down from your arrogance**
- **Come down off your pride**

Like Zacchaeus, you need to **make a public response to a call of Jesus to move out of your current position and join Him for a meal!**

Like Zacchaeus, **we need to respond to call of Jesus' and come down so He can lift us up!**

Why did **Jesus want him to come down?**

Because Jesus **wanted to go spend some time with Zacchaeus!**

1. Jesus **saw him and knew him.**
2. Jesus **called him by name.**
3. Jesus said **“come on down immediately → why?**
4. Jesus said, **“I must stay at your house today!”**

Jesus invited himself over!

Think of that. Jesus said **“I want to hang out with you!”**

Look what Zacchaeus did! Luke 19:

***<sup>6</sup> So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.  
<sup>7</sup> All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'"***

Our response to obey Jesus' call will bring us **forgiveness and a spirit of reconciliation.**

But, when we obey Jesus, it will also **create some muttering from people around us.**

Not **everyone understands why we would be willing to follow Jesus.**

I have been **interested to hear the responses of those who don't understand how our faith can give us assurance during times like this.**

In fact, I have had people say, **"How can you have hope during a time like this?"**

Because, **like Zacchaeus, I got down from a life that promised hope and never delivered and embraced the One who gave His life so my hope could be real!**

You know there is a **time for every one of us when we must go public with our faith.**

And when we **start to go public it will create conversations, especially among the people who don't understand.**

This was a **huge risk for Zacchaeus, but well worth it!**

Because when **Jesus wants to hang out with you, something goooooood is about to happen!**

**Salvation was about to happen to Zacchaeus!**

Jesus **wanted to hang out with Zac because He wanted to help him find what he was seeking!**

Jesus wanted to **move Zac beyond the temporary to the eternal!**

Jesus wanted to **produce in Zac joy and peace.**

He **wanted him to be released from his guilt and sin.**

He wanted **Zac to find God's purpose for his life!**

This created such a **revolutionary change** in his life that **Zac stood up at dinner** and made a **bold announcement**:

Luke 19:

***<sup>8</sup>But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."***

Think about this:

When you hang out with Jesus it will change your life!

Everything will change!

- What you value will change
- What you desire will change
- What you do with your life will change
- The way you interact with others will change

Your **encounter with Jesus will produce within you a well of new life** that will **burst forth with love and good deeds**.

You **can't help yourself**, you want to **BE different**, which will lead to you to **DO different**.

Zacchaeus **longed for something more than his money** could buy: **MEANING and SIGNIFIGANCE**.

Jesus **generously showed up** and **freely gave this gift to Zacchaeus**.

In response to that generosity, **Zacchaeus did things he probably never imagined he would do!**

It is not **your power but the power of Christ in you** that will **bring about this same kind of change**.

**In fact anyone who gets close to Jesus can't help but become generous**

It's true, you **begin to realize it is not about you**, but how you **can be used in the life of other people!**

I have **been amazed at the generosity of people** during this time.

I have **seen people working to be a miracle** in the lives of those **who live around you!**

One of our **men inspired me to create** a miracle fund, here is the idea.

For many who **have jobs this stimulus will be extra** so why **not give from our extra to help** those who really need it.

So we have started a **Be A Miracle Fund** -when you **give to this fund we will use it to provide food and pay bills** for people who **have lost their jobs or been impacted by the coronavirus!**

Let's be a **part of a miracle** in someone's life by **giving what we have to those in need!**

Landing page **need a miracle or be a miracle**

Zacchaeus **was changed in an instant** because of his **obedience.**

Which led to a **huge declaration from Jesus!** Luke 19:

***<sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."***



I love this, when we acknowledge and respond to the **Jesus *who sees us, knows us, calls us by name***, and **wants to hang out with us!**

Then we **will receive the gift of salvation.**

This is why Jesus came, to **bring salvation to those who were broken, lost, and undone.**

Jesus started this **meal train by dining with an enemy a tax collector named Matthew** where he declared,

**Luke 5:31-32 (NIV) <sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. <sup>32</sup> I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."**

And then just **before He enters Jerusalem for the final time**, He has **this meal with a chief tax collector** where **He declares.**

**Luke 19 <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."**

I don't believe **this was a coincidence.**

I believe this was intentional to declare:

**“I have come to seek and hang out with and bring a supernatural change for everyone!”**

Today I want you to **accept Jesus’ invitation** to come **hang out with you.**

Accept His invitation...**Say yes to Jesus today.**

**Let’s Pray**

**If you accepted Jesus invitation today,** please go public like Zac did.

The first thing you can do is click that **“Say Yes to Jesus”** tab and go public by writing you’re your name!

**Click the link** to learn about going public with your faith through baptism.

We have a **new small group** to help you know what to do next: **Southside Start**

If you've already been hanging out with Jesus and He's already **brought you the gift of salvation.**

Then I want you to **think about who else around you needs Jesus???**

**Invite them** to the table to the cross experience or our overcomers Easter celebration services.

This is the perfect time for you to **reach out to others in a world gone crazy.**

We must be reminded that **one simple encounter with Jesus can change everything!**

During these uncertain times, smile!

Express your faith in God and testify!

Let people know that they can find our sermons on YouTube.

Just search "Southside Church" and it has this whole series for anyone to listen to.

**Response time!**