

# Diligently Seeking God (Hebrews 11:6)

## PRAIRIE VILLAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Bulletin Articles from October 16, 2011

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### Scripture of the Week



#### Luke 19:8-10

*“Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, ‘Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.’”*

While making His way to Jerusalem to be killed for the sins of the world, Jesus passed through the city of Jericho, a few miles northwest of the area where the Jordan River flows into the Dead Sea. There was a man living in the city named Zaccheus who had a keen interest in seeing Jesus as He passed by. It is said of Zaccheus that he was a “chief tax collector and he was rich” (verse 2). This means he acquired a great deal of wealth by extorting money from his fellow countrymen. The term “publican” or “tax collector” became synonymous with the word “sinner” (verse 7), and the men who served the Roman government in these capacities were considered to be traitors and backstabbers by the general populace. Although

Zaccheus was large in notoriety, he was “small in stature,” so he climbed a tree to get a better look at the Savior (verses 3-4). Jesus summoned the little man down from the tree, calling him by name, and invited Himself to be guest in his house. A short time after his encounter with Jesus, Zaccheus declared that he would give half of his possessions to the poor, and pay back four times the amount of money he had taken dishonestly to the people he had stolen it from. Only the Savior of the world can elicit this type of complete transformation in the lives of the people He created. Jesus took a noted swindler from greed’s gutter to heaven’s doorstep with just one encounter. He can make a world of difference in your life as well.

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### I Surrender All

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The story of Zaccheus is a prime example of someone recognizing the true value of that which Jesus has to offer Him. Zaccheus was a wealthy man who had all the best things that this world can provide, and yet he still knew something was terribly wrong—that something was still missing in his life. When He met Jesus he realized that he’d been living a lie and that only The Truth could set him free from his self-made prison of greed and materialism. Zaccheus lived out the lyric of the famous hymn: “All to Jesus I surrender; all to Him I freely give.” There’s no indication in the text of Luke 19:1-10 that Jesus told Zaccheus to make that specific sacrifice,

and yet he willingly gave up all his ill-gotten wealth for the salvation that is valuable beyond human calculation. The tax collector promised to give half of his possessions to the needy, and refund four times what he’d cheated people out of. This outlay could have easily exhausted all of the funds he had accumulated over a lifetime of double-dealing, but that was inconsequential to him. He had found in Jesus what his soul had been longing for all his wasted life. He, like the Apostle Paul, could rightly say, *“But what things were gain to me these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Je-*

*sus my Lord, for whom I have suffered loss of all things and counted them as rubbish that I may gain Christ”* (Phil 3:7-8). These are the words and actions of people who’ve been truly converted to Christ. They didn’t merely believe in Jesus. They sacrificed things of lesser value in exchange for things of surpassing value. Have you surrendered all for Christ? Are you robbing yourself of the peace that comes from giving all, by holding onto a favorite sin, a destructive thought, or an impure relationship? Surrendering is not giving up, but giving over. Whatever might be standing between you and the joy of knowing Christ is so not worth it. Surrender is the only solution.

**Please Come Visit Us At...**

**Prairie Village Church of Christ**

**4616 Valley Station Rd., Louisville, KY 40272**

**Preacher – Louie Taylor**

**Phone Number – 502.807.3211**

**www.pvchurchofchrist.com**

**Times of Services**

**Sunday Morning Bible Study.....9:30**

**Sunday Morning Worship Service.....10:30**

**Sunday Evening Worship Service.....6:30**

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:30**



**Jesus and the Ark**

Of all the sacred emblems of the religion of Judaism, none stands out more prominently than the Ark of the Covenant. The ark was the most holy object which resided in the most holy place of the tabernacle and the temple, and served as a physical manifestation of God himself to the His covenant people. When Moses entered the tabernacle to converse with Jehovah, the Lord spoke to him from above the mercy seat which covered the ark. The ark was so hallowed an object that the holiest place could only be entered once a year, and then only by the high priest to make atonement for the sins of the nation of Israel. In Hebrews 9:3-5, we are told of the contents of this most sacred object: *“Behind the second veil there was a tabernacle which is called the*

*Holy of Holies, having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, in which was a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat.”* The tablets of the covenant represented all the laws that God initiated in order to keep His people satisfied, sanctified and secured. The jar of manna represented God's providential care for his people as they wandered through the wilderness for 40 years. Aaron's rod that budded represented the Levitical priesthood that was passed down from generation to generation through the sons of Aaron, and that served as mediation between God and His people, Israel.

The mercy seat which covered the ark was sprinkled with sacrificial animal blood to make atonement for the people's sins. All these things, though ever so holy, were only an inferior foreshadowing of what God has now provided mankind through His Son Jesus. Unlike the cold, chiseled stone tablets, Jesus is the living word of God who provides the everlasting life that the Law was never capable of giving. Unlike the temporary nourishment of the manna, Jesus is the eternal Bread of Life that satisfies all of mankind's deepest spiritual needs. Unlike the tribal priesthood represented by Aaron's rod, Jesus is The High Priest who offered His own blood, once or all time, to cover the sins of the world, and He ever lives to make intercession for His people.

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**OUR GOSPEL MEETING WITH GERRY SANDUSKY**

If you missed any of the lessons from our Gospel meeting of August 15-17, they are posted on our website at [www.pvchurchofchrist.com](http://www.pvchurchofchrist.com). Click the tab that indicates that meeting, and you can either “left click” the “play” button and listen to the sermon from your computer, or you can “right click” and save that sermon to file and listen to it elsewhere. Thanks to everyone who attended and prayed for our special meeting.