

indeed it was the greatest honour he could have : even an angel would think it a great honor to have a visit from the Son of God.

Zaccheus was a rich man, so I suppose he had a large, and perhaps a fine house. But Jesus does not care whether a house is large or small, he looks into the hearts of the people who live in it. Why did he choose to come to the house of Zaccheus?—Because he had determined to make Zaccheus happy for ever. Once Zaccheus had been a wicked man ; he had cheated many people. It was his business to collect the *public* taxes, and for this reason he was called a *publican* ; but he had not been honest ; he had charged more than he ought, and he had grown rich by his dishonesty. His cheating ways had been found out, and now he had a bad character ; so when people saw Jesus go into his house, many said why does he go into the house of a wicked person ?” But the people who said that, did not know that Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Zaccheus was now very sorry for his past wickedness, and while Jesus was in his house, he stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor,” and he promised to give back to the people from whom he had taken too much, *four* times what he had taken. Was not this right in Zaccheus ? Every body whom he had cheated might come to him and say, “You took from me one penny, or two pence, more than you ought ; will you give me back four times as much ?” If the people said true, then Zaccheus would give them back the money. Jesus was much pleased to hear Zaccheus speak as he did. He praised him, and said he was a son of Abraham. Abraham was a man who believed in God, and Jesus saw that Zaccheus did so also, for he could see into his heart. These were the words that Jesus spoke to Zaccheus : “This day is salvation

come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham.”

I do not know whether Zaccheus had any little children, but if he had, how glad they must have been to hear Jesus say salvation was come to the house or the family. How happy are the children of a man who believes in Jesus ! A good father prays for his children, teaches them, takes them to the house of God, and begs them to be good and to love Christ.

Zaccheus never could forget the visit that Jesus had made to his family. How often he would talk of it, and call to mind all that Jesus had done and said. How often he must have repeated this sweet sentence : “The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Jesus is not now walking about the world, but many of his servants are, and they go like him to seek the lost. They go to the houses of sinners ; they go to the rooms of sinners ; they stand by the dying beds of sinners, and tell them of the Saviour. Has a good man ever visited your father’s house ? It might be a minister, or it might be a good man who was not a minister. Did he come and talk to you of Jesus ? Perhaps he often comes and reads the Bible, and kneels down, and prays for you and your father and mother. Are you not glad to see him ? Do you not say sometimes to your mother, “I think I hear his step upon the stairs ?” Do you run and open the door, and beg him to come in and sit down ? Do you keep quite still while he is reading and praying ? Perhaps he sometimes speaks to you, and tells you that Jesus loves little children.

You may find the history of Zaccheus in Luke 19 : 1–10.

Christ is merciful and mild
He was once a little child ;
He whom heavenly hosts adore,
Lived on earth among the poor.
Then he laid his glory by,
When for us he came to die ;
How I wonder when I see
His unbounded love for me.