

Teachings of the Lesson.

Where in this lesson may we find—

1. An earnest seeker after Jesus?
2. A sincere penitent before Jesus?
3. A joyful believer in Jesus?

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

Where was Jesus going?
 To what place had he come?
 Who were with him?
 Where were they all going?
 What do you know about Jericho?
 Who had been healed by Jesus near there?
 (Luke 18. 35-43.)
 Who had climbed into a tree by the roadside?

What kind of a tree was it?
 Who was Zaccheus?
 What do you know about publicans?
 Do you know why Zaccheus climbed the tree?
 (Verse 3.)
 How did Jesus surprise him?
 What did Zaccheus do?
 What effect has it to receive Jesus into the house?
 Have you received him? **Answer to yourself.**

Think!

Zaccheus was glad when Jesus spoke to him.
 WERE YOU?
 Zaccheus received Jesus joyfully, and at once.
 HAVE YOU? WILL YOU?

EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.**General Statement.**

After his journey through Perea Jesus probably came to Bethany, near Jerusalem, where he raised the dead Lazarus to life. Such an excitement was created by this event that the Jewish leaders formally resolved to put Jesus to death as a disturber of the people. As his hour was not yet come he withdrew from the vicinity of the capital and secluded himself for a few weeks in the village of Ephraim or Ephron, near the Samaritan border. Shortly before the passover he left this retreat. Having recrossed the Jordan he passed through Jericho on his way to Jerusalem. At the gate of Jericho he healed Bartimeus, the blind beggar, and in its streets he met Zaccheus, the rich publican. He entered his house as a guest, and was received into his heart as a Saviour.

Verses 1, 2. Passed through Jericho.

"Was passing through." He was on the way to Jerusalem from his retirement in or near the Jordan valley. **Chief among the publicans.** The publicans assessed and collected the taxes which they paid to their chief, who was in turn subordinate to the receiver-general of the province. **Rich.** "Perhaps the fruit of his false accusation (verse 8)."—*Lange*. The fees of a publican were large, and extortions often made them larger.

3, 4. Sought to see Jesus. His was more than mere curiosity to behold the man whose name was on every tongue. It was a desire to know him who declared himself to be the friend of publicans and sinners, and in him to seek satisfaction for the hunger of his soul. **Who he was.** Which person in the mingled and confused crowd which was thronging the streets of Jericho. **Press.** Two crowds jostled each other—Galilean pilgrims now on their way to Jerusalem, hundreds of whom probably flocked about Jesus, and the sightseers of Jericho. Christ passed his earthly life in the excitement and strain of a throng which was ever expecting to hear wonderful words and to witness wonderful works. **Little of stature.** As a publican he would likely be hindered and perhaps abused in his endeavors to penetrate the crowd that swayed around the Prophet. **He ran before.** The only chance

the little man would have. Many finding obstacles in their way to find the Master would have given up the effort and gone home. Suppose Zaccheus had become discouraged; what then? He would have lost the spiritual opportunity of a lifetime. (1) *When Christ is near men should make the most of their opportunities to find him.* **Climbed up.** A simple action, but it showed (1) determination; (2) skill to employ expedients; (3) courage in withstanding probable jeers and taunts; (4) a sacrifice of some dignity in one so rich taking a place so humble. (2) *Those who desire to see Jesus must not be repelled by any difficulties that may arise.* **Sycamore tree.** The Egyptian fig, a very large tree.

5, 6. Saw him. Out of all the crowd the Master's eye rested upon him. He knew his name, read his history at a glance, and appreciated his rising faith. (3) *Christ sees everyone whose thoughts are turned toward him.* **Said unto him, Zaccheus.** (4) *There is great power in direct individual address.* One fervent personal word will outweigh a whole sermon addressed to an assemblage. Notice from the beginning of this last southward journey Jesus had acted as a monarch; he no longer enjoins secrecy upon his apostles, and this command to Zaccheus is in keeping with the triumphal entry to Jerusalem which was so soon to follow. **Make haste.** (5) *Souls must not be slow in obeying the commands of Christ.* **Abide**