



# Midtown Messenger

Volume 3

September 27, 2020

Issue 39

## ZACCHAEUS: A SMALL MAN WITH A GREAT FAITH

By: Ronnie Scherffius

And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. <sup>3</sup>And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. <sup>4</sup>And he ran before and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. <sup>5</sup>And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house.” (Lk. 19:2-5)

All are familiar with the biblical account of Zacchaeus. However, if our knowledge is limited to the fact that he was a “wee little man” who “climbed up in a sycamore tree” to see Jesus, we have failed to learn two fundamental truths of the Scripture.

**First, a personal intimate time with Jesus will produce faith in Him as the Christ.** Zacchaeus was seeking to see Jesus for a particular purpose: “And he sought **to see Jesus who he was**; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way” (3-4). Our emphasis here should not be on *what* Zacchaeus did but *why*. Yes, he ran ahead of the crowd. Yes, he climbed a tree. But the purpose for this was to see “who” Jesus was. Is He a teacher? Is He a prophet? Is He the Messiah, the Savior of the world? Who is the man Jesus?

Jesus’ response was proactive and worthy of note. Seeing Zacchaeus He calls him by name and invites himself into his house. On no other occasion is the Lord so forward. In no other instance does Jesus personally invite himself into someone’s home. Yet this fits perfectly with the text! It satisfies the genuine desire of Zacchaeus to see “who he was.” A momentary glance of Jesus passing could never provide a depth of knowledge. But hours with Jesus in a private personal setting would allow for a full picture of Jesus — the Christ. Jesus response also perfectly satisfies the nature of His mission: “to seek and to save that which was lost” (10). Zacchaeus sought to see who Jesus was. Jesus, seeing Zacchaeus, sought to abide with him to fully develop his faith.

**Second, true faith in Jesus will cause one to repent of wrong doing.** Zacchaeus’ response clearly demonstrates a genuine faith in Jesus as the Christ: “And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord” (8a). The Greek word translated *stood* indicates “a solemn formal act.” This is the direct result of time spent with Jesus. A further illustration of Zacchaeus faith is how that he addressed Jesus as “Lord.” This demonstrates a humble submission to Jesus as his superior. The word *Behold* in the text is also significant and expressive of a sudden resolution rather than one slowly reached. Zacchaeus time with Jesus produced a faith followed by a sudden resolve to repent of a life of fraud and theft; “the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold” (8). What a beautiful picture of

humble submission and sincere repentance! Zacchaeus turned from greedy publican to giving patron.

The faith of Zacchaeus was evidenced by fruits meet for repentance which brought an acknowledgment from Jesus full of praise that few, if any, perceive. “This day is salvation come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a **son of Abraham**” (9). No doubt Zacchaeus was a Jew (cf. Ezra 2:9; Neh. 1:14) and of the lineage of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but unlike other descendants of Abraham, Zacchaeus also demonstrated the *faith of Abraham* by doing the works that faith demands (cf. Jn. 8:37-39). This is the true picture of a son of the father of the faithful (cf. Gal. 3:26-29; Rom. 9:1-33).

Zacchaeus was a small man with a great faith. That faith came from spending time with Jesus. How much time are you spending with Jesus? How great is your faith? Is your faith evidenced by the fruits of righteousness?

---

### **Why Don't Some People Wear Masks To Church?** *By: Don Blackwell*

The issue of wearing masks at the worship assemblies has caused a great deal of division across our brotherhood. Some have accused those who wear masks as being “sheep” who are just blindly following a political hoax. Many of the posts on Facebook against the *mask-wearers* have been unkind and unworthy of a child of God. They have caused division in the brotherhood. People who normally would never believe it right to insult their brethren have resorted to doing it, and in many cases brutally so. The result is that many friendships and congregations have suffered.

On the other hand, it has repeatedly been said that those who don't wear a mask don't love the elderly and don't care enough about their brethren who believe in the threat of Covid-19. Some have even accused them of being stubborn or more concerned about their own personal comfort than they are of others' health. Please consider another possibility. Many of the people who do not wear masks to worship are whole-heartedly convinced that the virus [really exists, but that the risk and manner of its

spread, and its potential lethality to all Americans, of all ages, has been grossly exaggerated/misreported by certain media outlets for apparent political purposes.] They cannot bring themselves to lend support to what they believe to be a lie. Being asked to come to worship and “endorse” what they believe is false is intolerable to their conscience.

Regardless of your view with regard to masks, it is not a doctrinal issue and should not be causing division in the precious body of our Lord. If you believe masks and the virus are a hoax, please do not do harm to the church over this view. If you have already done so, fix it to the best of your ability. If you believe there is a real threat and that masks work, please do not shame your brethren who hold a different opinion. Please do not try to paint them as unloving or stubborn. Certainly, do not shun them or refuse to speak to them. The devil has had a field day with the Corona Virus. Let's stop him and get back to the Lord's business.

*Don Blackwell is the Executive Director of the Gospel Broadcasting Network, Gospel Preacher, and serves as an elder for the Southaven Church of Christ, Southaven, MS*

### ***A special request from your preacher...***

Brethren, if you **are** wearing a mask in the building when you attend worship services, know that it is greatly appreciated, but please refrain from making critical comments to *or* about others who are not. And **please** do not ask someone “Where is your mask?” They know they are not wearing a mask; it is on purpose. If you **are not** wearing a mask into the building when you attend worship services you are just as welcome as any who are; you will never be turned away or asked to leave. But **please** be respectful of those who are and observe “social distance” when speaking to them. They are wearing a mask on purpose and it is *important* to them. Christian conduct does not require that we wear mask to attend worship services but it does demand that we treat one another with respect — pandemic or not.

In Him,  
Ronnie

---

## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of September 27, 2020

\*\*subject to change\*\*

### **Sunday Morning:**

Announcements: Bryant Siegel  
Scripture Reading: Fred Scherffius

### **Lord's Supper & Offering**

Bread: Ron White  
Fruit of the Vine: Ron White  
Offering: Christian Sneeringer

### **Prayer**

A.M. Opening: Kirk FitzSimmons  
A.M. Closing: Mike Atkinson

### **Song Leaders:**

Sun. A.M.: Kevin Sheeran  
Wed. P.M.: Larry Nuckels

**Ushers:** Allen Clifton

**Wednesday Devo:** Bryce Dolan

**Open/Close Building:**

**Sound System:** Mark FitzSimmons

---

**To Our Visitors:** We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.

---

**Sermons are available on our website  
[www.midtowncoc.org](http://www.midtowncoc.org) under Resources.**

**MidTown's Bible Classes and Worship services can be viewed livestream on YouTube. Search MidTown church of Christ Victoria.**

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Please pray for the country during this time of the Corona Virus Pandemic. Letty Randle who will be having gall bladder surgery Monday.

Happy Birthday: Tam Archer (27); Violet Pantel (28)

Happy Anniversary: Paul & Laura Purswell (27)

### Upcoming Events:

*Sunday, Oct. 4: Men's Business meeting @ 1pm*

*Sunday, Oct. 11: Youth devo here at the building. More details to come.*

*\*Anyone who would like to donate individually wrapped Little Debbie Food Cakes, single serve size chips and can drinks for the devo, you may leave them in the kitchen\**

*Dec. 4-6: Challenging the Church hosted by MidTown.*

---

**\*\*FRIENDLY REMINDER TO CONTINUE PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING\*\***

---

## KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady  
Les Daltry  
Janice FitzSimmons  
Ken and Sandra Marie  
Wayne Martin  
Ann Pantel  
Veronica Serenil  
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Dee Gilpatrick  
Faye Henderson  
Charlie Mabe  
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

# MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Minister:** Ronnie Scherffius  
**Secretary:** Nina Siegel

## TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Class: 9:00 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM  
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00 PM

## RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of September 20, 2020

A.M. Bible Class.....75  
A.M. Worship.....98  
Online views during worship.....20  
Wednesday Bible Class.....56

Offering week of September 20, 2020.....\$3,266

## Reading for this week:

It was I who knew you in the wilderness,  
in the land of drought;  
but when they had grazed, they became full,  
they were filled, and their heart was lifted up;  
therefore they forgot me.

Hosea 13:5-6

---

## SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony  
Scherffius

---

## GO PAPERLESS!

Want the digital version?

Email us at [midtowncoc2017@gmail.com](mailto:midtowncoc2017@gmail.com)

To receive the MidTown Messenger in your inbox  
or visit [www.midtowncoc.org](http://www.midtowncoc.org)

---

## MidTown Church of Christ

5901 N. Main

Victoria, TX 77904

(361) 573-0030

[midtowncoc2017@gmail.com](mailto:midtowncoc2017@gmail.com)

