

**PERMISSION GRANTED: To Start Over**

Pastor Brandon Zieske

Text: Luke 14:16-35; 19:1-10

Our relationship with God is a journey to be traveled, not so much a destination to arrive at.

The Journey: A -----> B

God invites us to invite Him in. Luke 19:5

It's never too late to start over. Luke 19:5

If Jesus has invited you to invite Him in, that's all you need. Luke 19:7

Don't be too proud to come out of the tree. He already sees you there. Luke 19:7

What we give up for Jesus is nothing compared to what we gain by getting Jesus. Luke 14:25-35

The new life that Jesus offers us demands all of us. Luke 14:25-35

Every time we deny ourselves, we become more like Him.

**Food for Thought for the week of April 3, 2016**

(Questions and Scriptures for further study and discussion.)

Luke 14:16-35 & 19:1-10

1. How did this week's message impact you? What challenged you? What questions did it raise? What confused you?
2. What has your journey looked like? Take some time with your group to talk about the good things, some of the detours, and how you've handled them.
3. Why is process in life just as important [if not more important] as the destination? How does all of this relate to your walk with Jesus?
4. Read Luke 19:1-10 Zacchaeus was an outcast in the society he lived in, yet Jesus pursued a relationship with him. Has there ever been a time when you felt like an outcast? Looked down on? Not welcome? How has your faith in Christ impacted you in spite of those labels?
5. Read Numbers 14:4 The Israelites at some point concluded the grass was greener back in Egypt, even though God had delivered them from slavery and into the Promised Land. What are some things or events that you look back on and second-guess? How can you continue to surrender those desires to God?
6. Galatians 5:24 and Matthew 16:24 talk about crucifying our desires and picking up our crosses to follow Jesus. Part of that means counting the costs of living that life. What does your cross look like? What does following Christ cost you?
7. Read Galatians 6:1-6 and 1 Thessalonians 5:14. Tell your group about a time when someone helped you through a difficult situation. How can we use Paul's charge to help a person come out of their old life and into a life of faith in Christ? What do you think "carry one another's burdens" means practically speaking?
8. Read Psalm 139. David writes about this idea of God relentlessly pursuing us no matter how bad, we or our circumstances are. In your group highlight reasons from Psalm 139 for following Jesus.
9. Read Luke 14:25-35 Following Christ comes with sacrificing our own desires and dreams. Zacchaeus chose to follow Christ. Christianity ultimately comes down to counting the cost of and accepting an invitation to follow Him or not. What are your next steps in this journey with Jesus?

April 3, 2016



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