

▼ **Jesus and Zacchaeus**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday September 7, 2025

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<http://www.LifeChurchBoston.org/>

▼ **Opening Material**

▼ **Welcome!**

- Praise the Lord!
- Welcome to another Life Church sermon!

▼ **Transition**

- Welcome to another Sunday at Life Church.
- The QR code (also available on our song sheets) links to our Visitor Landing Page.
- Use it to access our notes, share your contact information, and access our giving page.
- Questions? If you took the time to visit us, you deserve to get answers!
- Email: Questions@LifeChurchBoston.ORG
- We are starting Luke 19.
- We will have Q&A / Discussion after the message, followed by Sunday Connection.

▼ **Thoughts**

▼ **Video**

- [Chase: We Talkin' Bout Cashbacking I Chase Freedom Unlimited](#) - YouTube (00:00:30)
- [Talking About Making Disciples](#) - YouTube (00:00:25)

▼ **Acts 2:42-43 - The 4 Devotions:**

- The apostles' teaching
- fellowship
- the breaking of bread
- prayer

▼ **Overview**

▼ **In today's message we will do the following:**

- Moralistic Therapeutic Deism
- ▼ Why are we here?

- Acts 2:36-39
- Acts 17:29-31
- Review passage - Luke 1:1-4.
- Review passage - Luke 4:14-21.
- Review our passage - Luke 18:35-43
- Explore what Jesus is teaching us.
- Transition to Life Group.

▼ Opening Material

▼ Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

▼ Principal Elements

- 1) A God exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
- 2) God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
- 3) The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
- 4) God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
- 5) Good people go to heaven when they die.

▼ Comments

- Introduced in the 2005 book “Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers” by the sociologist Christian Smith with Melinda Lundquist Denton.
- Result of the National Study of Youth and Religion.
- ▼ According to Kenda Creasy Dean, author of the 2010 book “Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers Is Telling the American Church”:
 - “The problem does not seem to be that churches are teaching young people badly, but that we are doing an exceedingly good job of teaching youth what we really believe: namely, that Christianity is not a big deal, that God requires little, and the church is a helpful social institution filled with nice people . . .”

▼ Why are we here?

- Acts 2:36-39 - Spoken to Jews

“Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the

forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

- **Acts 17:29-31 - Spoken to Gentiles**

“Therefore, since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

▼ **Welcome to Luke!**

▼ Video

- [Bible Project: Luke 1-9](#) - YouTube (00:08:16)
- [Bible Project: Luke 10-24](#) - YouTube (00:07:48)
- Luke 1:1-4

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

▼ **Embrace Jesus’ Mission**

▼ **Luke 4:14-21 (NIV) - The Lord’s Spirit Is Upon Me**

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “**Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.**”

► Setting the Stage

▼ **Feed on the Life of Jesus**

- **Are you “worded up”?**

- **Eat his flesh; Drink his blood - John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17**
- **Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?**
- ▼ **What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?**
 - The Gospel of Matthew in September (9/1 - 9/28)
 - The Gospel of Mark in October (10/1 – 10/16)
 - The Gospel of Luke in November (11/1 – 11/24)
 - The Gospel of John in December (12/1 – 12/21)
 - The Gospel of Matthew in January (1/1 – 1/28)
- ▼ **For September this means:**
 - Read Matthew 6 on September 6 (yesterday).
 - Read Matthew 7 on September 7 (today).
 - Read Matthew 8 on September 8 (tomorrow).
 - etc.
- **As you read, write down any questions you have.**
- ▼ **Ask yourself the following questions:**
 - What did this chapter teach me about how Jesus viewed himself, his mission, his relationship to God, and his relationship to others?
 - What would I like to better understand about this chapter?
 - What did I find challenging about this chapter?
 - What did I learn as I tried to apply this chapter to my life?
 - Would an outsider who read this chapter recognize that I was trying to apply it to my life?
- ▼ **Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:**

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

 - Did you grow up in church without getting your questions answered?
 - Did you grow up apart from church wondering what all the fuss was about?
 - Either way, don't be afraid to start from scratch or start over from scratch with someone who can walk you through the Bible so that you can understand God's Kingdom.
 - Read and listen to God's Word in community!

▼ Luke 19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

► Parallel / Related Passages

▼ Jesus and Zacchaeus

▼ Narrative - Luke 19:1-10

- Jesus enters Jericho.
- Zacchaeus, a short, wealthy, chief tax collector, climbs a sycamore-fig tree ahead of Jesus' route in order to be able to see him.
- Jesus calls out to him and announces his intention to stay at his house.
- Zacchaeus comes down and welcomes Jesus gladly.
- The people mutter that Jesus has gone to be the guest of a “sinner”.

▼ Zacchaeus stands up and announces to the Lord:

- He is giving half of his possessions to the poor.
- He will pay back four times the amount to anyone he has cheated.
- Jesus announces that salvation has come to Zacchaeus' house and that he is a son of Abraham.
- Jesus declares that the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

▼ Observations / Background

- The Romans put tax collection out to bid. Whoever offered to collect the highest amount got the “contract”. Tax collectors had great opportunity to profit by charging more than was due.
- Zacchaeus is a chief tax collector. He was in a position to profit from the public and from the tax collectors under him.
- Zacchaeus is a short man, but he is backed by the Roman State. He is despised.
- ▼ Jesus, though God, is operating as a man filled with and led by the Holy Spirit.

- **Philippians 2:1-11**

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death —

even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

- ▼ **Zacchaeus demonstrates repentance. His restitution is in line with Exodus 22:1.**

- **Exodus 22:1**

“Whoever steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it must pay back five head of cattle for the ox and four sheep for the sheep.

- It is only after Zacchaeus repents publicly that Jesus pronounces his salvation.
- Contrast Zacchaeus with the Rich Young Ruler of Luke 18:18-30.
- ▼ A son of Abraham is an heir to the promise of Abraham - part of God’s covenant people.

- ▼ **Video**

- [Bible Project: The Covenants](#) - YouTube (00:05:36)

- **Genesis 12:1-5**

The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

“I will make you into a great nation,

and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,

and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you,

and whoever curses you I will curse;

and all peoples on earth

will be blessed through you.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-

five years old when he set out from Harran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

- **Genesis 17:1-8**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty ; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram ; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you now reside as a foreigner, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God. ”

▼ **Lessons**

- How do we respond when Jesus “passes by”?
- Is there some way in which the Lord is calling you to repent today?
- Wherever Jesus went, God was at work.
- When God is at work, people respond in various ways.
- Some, like Zacchaeus go out of their way to find out more about what’s going on.
- The Holy Spirit may lead you to engage with someone who is curious.
- Look for genuine repentance.

▼ Put yourself in this story as one or more of the following:

- Zacchaeus
- the tax collectors under Zacchaeus
- the crowd following Jesus
- Zacchaeus’ family
- Jesus
- Luke
- With whom do you identify the most?

► **Discussions, Q&A**



Jesus & Zacchaeus

Sunday September 7, 2025



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Thoughts (continued)



- Talkin' Bout Cashbacking
- Talkin' Bout Making Disciples
- Acts 2:42-43 - The 4 Devotions:
 - the apostles' teaching
 - fellowship
 - the breaking of bread
 - prayer



Overview



In today's message we will do the following:

- Moralistic Therapeutic Deism
- Why are we here?
- Review passage - Luke 1:1-4.
- Review passage - Luke 4:14-21.
- Review our passage - Luke 19:1-10
- Explore what Jesus is teaching us.
- Transition to Life Group.



Why are we here?



Acts 2:36-39 – Spoken to Jews

Acts 17:29-31 – Spoken to Gentiles



Acts 2:36-39 – Spoken to Jews

“Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”



Acts 17:29-31 – Spoken to Gentiles

“Therefore, since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”



Welcome to Luke!



- Video: Bible Project: Luke 1-9
- Video: Bible Project: Luke 10-24
- Luke 1:1-4 – Luke's Introduction
- Luke 4:14-21 – Embrace Jesus' Mission



Luke 1:1-4 – Luke's Introduction

Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.



Embrace Jesus' Mission: Luke 4:14-21

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

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Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”



Feed on the Life of Jesus (1 of 4)

Are you “worded up”?

Eat his flesh; Drink his blood – John 6:53-59; 2 Samuel 23:13-17

Does the Word of Christ dwell in you richly (Colossians 3:16 - KJV)?

What if you read a Gospel every month - a chapter a day?

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Feed on the Life of Jesus (2 of 4)



For September this means:

- Read Matthew 6 on September 6 (yesterday).
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- etc.



Feed on the Life of Jesus (3 of 4)

As you read, write down any questions you have.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- What did this chapter teach me about how Jesus viewed himself, his mission, his relationship to God, and his relationship to others?
- What would I like to better understand about this chapter?
- What did I find challenging about this chapter?
- What did I learn as I tried to apply this chapter to my life?
- Would an outsider who read this chapter recognize that I was trying to apply it to my life?



Feed on the Life of Jesus (4 of 4)

Jesus explained his teaching to his disciples:

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything. – Mark 4:33-34 (NIV)

- Did you grow up in church without getting your questions answered?
- Did you grow up apart from church wondering what all the fuss was about?
- Either way, don't be afraid to start from scratch or start over from scratch with someone who can walk you through the Bible so that you can understand God's Kingdom.
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Luke 19:1-10 (NIV)

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, **“Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.”** So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

Jesus said to him, **“Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”**



Narrative – Luke 19:1-10 1 of 2

- Jesus enters Jericho.
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Narrative – Luke 19:1-10 2 of 2

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Observations / Background 1 of 2

- The Romans put tax collection out to bid. Whoever offered to collect the highest amount got the “contract”. Tax collectors had great opportunity to profit by charging more than was due.
- Zacchaeus is a chief tax collector. He was in a position to profit from the public and from the tax collectors under him.
- Zacchaeus is a short man, but he is backed by the Roman State. He is despised.
- Jesus, though God, is operating as a man filled with and led by the Holy Spirit.
 - Philippians 2:1-11



Philippians 2:1-11 (NIV) 1 of 2

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:



Philippians 2:1-11 (NIV) 2 of 2

Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death —
even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.



Observations / Background 1 of 2

- The Romans put tax collection out to bid. Whoever offered to collect the highest amount got the “contract”. Tax collectors had great opportunity to profit by charging more than was due.
- Zacchaeus is a chief tax collector. He was in a position to profit from the public and from the tax collectors under him.
- Zacchaeus is a short man, but he is backed by the Roman State. He is despised.
- Jesus, though God, is operating as a man filled with and led by the Holy Spirit.
 - Philippians 2:1-11
- Zacchaeus demonstrates repentance. His restitution is in line with Exodus 22:1.



Exodus 22:1 (NIV)

“Whoever steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it must pay back five head of cattle for the ox and four sheep for the sheep.



Observations / Background 2 of 2

- It is only after Zacchaeus repents publicly that Jesus pronounces his salvation.
- Contrast Zacchaeus with the Rich Young Ruler of Luke 18:18-30.
- A son of Abraham is an heir to the promise of Abraham - part of God's covenant people.
 - Bible Project: The Covenants
 - Genesis 12:1-5
 - Genesis 17:1-8



Bible Project: The Covenants





Genesis 12:1-5 (NIV)

The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
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When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty ; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.”

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Lessons 1 of 2

- How do we respond when Jesus “passes by”?
- Is there some way in which the Lord is calling you to repent today?
- Wherever Jesus went, God was at work.
- When God is at work, people respond in various ways.
- Some, like Zacchaeus go out of their way to find out more about what’s going on.
- The Holy Spirit may lead you to engage with someone who is curious.
- Look for genuine repentance.



Lessons 2 of 2



- Put yourself in this story as one or more of the following:
 - Zacchaeus
 - the tax collectors under Zacchaeus
 - the crowd following Jesus
 - Zacchaeus' family
 - Jesus
 - Luke



Q&A / Discussion





Announcements



Visitor Page

- Sunday Service (Communion) September 7, 2025
- Sunday Connection September 7, 2025 12n - 2pm
- Men's Bible Study Wed (9/10) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service September 14, 2025
- Men's Bible Study Wed (9/17) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service September 21, 2025
- Men's Bible Study Wed (9/24) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom
- Sunday Service September 28, 2025
- Men's Bible Study Wed (10/1) 7pm - 8:30pm - via Zoom



Q&A / Discussion





Benediction, Life Groups



Announcements

Benediction

Life Groups

Leave Service From Life Groups