



"God is the God of the BEFORE!"

Happy Thanksgiving this week! (Wasn't so good for Big Bird though...)

Luke 19:1-10

1. BEFORE!

*God not only had a TREE prepared to grow in the exact spot where Zacchaeus would see Jesus **BEFORE** he was even born!!! God also had an incredible life changing moment for this man!

*Zacchaeus was not an accident! The tree was not an accident!

*Zacchaeus was very THANKFUL that day! He found Jesus!

***God is the God of the BEFORE!**

****He works BEFORE anything happens to make everything happen!***

*God had a tree **BEFORE** the time that Zacchaeus would climb it and see out of it!

*God had a tree **BEFORE** the time that His One and Only Son, Jesus Christ, would hang on and die for the sins of the world! A tree that would grow, be cut down and made into a cross!

*John 3:16-17

*I'm so THANKFUL today for the **BEFORE** God!

A. Here is the MIND BLOWER! The fact is this...**BEFORE** Zacchaeus was ever born...*God planted that tree* for his *specific moment* to meet Jesus!!!!

- God foreknew the entire life of this man! Psalm 139:16
- It was all planned out by God on how to get ahold of Zacchaeus! Who knew that **a certain TREE** would be the *very spot* that this short man could see Jesus!
- A **SEED** was planted **long BEFORE** he ever climbed that tree to actually encounter Jesus!
- **Question:** "What **SEEDS** can you look back at in your life, and **SEE** how God was trying to get your attention or finally did get your attention?"
- Those **SEEDS** could be *a thing, a person* or *anything* in your life! *You are here today because of those SEEDS!* That person or those people! That situation! That moment!

2. The BEFORE aspect of God is the most powerful! Why?

- It's called Genesis! **Genesis** = *nothing is there...God speaks and there it is!*
- **God is the God of the BEFORE!** What He plans **BEFORE** something happens, and even with someone being created **BEFORE being in the womb!**
- *He will hold accountable those who ignore the BEFORE!*

*Isaiah 43:10 – "**BEFORE** Me, there was no god formed, and there will be none after Me!"

- * Psalm 90:2 – “**BEFORE** the mountains were born, or You gave birth (Created) the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God!”
- * Jeremiah 1:4-5 – “**BEFORE** I formed you in the womb...**BEFORE** you were born I consecrated you.”
- * Psalm 139:16 – “You saw me **BEFORE** I was born...**every moment** of my life **was laid out** in Your book **BEFORE** a single day had passed.”
- * Jonah 1:17 – “Now the Lord had **ARRANGED (BEFORE)** for a great fish to swallow Jonah.”
- * John 1:48 – “Nathanael said to Jesus – ‘How do you know me?’ Jesus answered, ‘**BEFORE** Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, **I saw you!**’”
- * Isaiah 65:24 – “It will also come to pass that **BEFORE** they call (pray), I will answer, and while they are still speaking, I will hear.” *This is God with your prayers!*

Closing: People **deliberately forget** that God will hold everyone accountable who does not believe and live out His **BEFORE** power and qualities!

- **How much does God love you and this world?** Not only did He give His One and Only Son, but He loves us enough to **WARN us of the coming Judgment BEFORE** it happens!
- 2 Peter 3 – There was the **FIRST World Wide Judgment** and it was a **flood!**
- **They deliberately forget this on purpose!**
- So, 2 Peter 3, is a chapter that is **WARNING** the entire world **BEFORE** the **SECOND World Wide Judgment** ever happens with **fire!**
- See, Zacchaeus **WANTED TO SEE** Jesus! **So many people today do not!**
- *God was dealing with this man BEFORE he ever climbed that tree!*
- **See, TODAY is actually YOUR MOMENT!** You are here today, because Jesus has this very moment for you to SEE Him today! **TODAY** is a **GIFT** from God to you!

****Endurance Church is your Sycamore Tree today!****

- You have a choice to climb, hear, look all around and finally **SEE** if you want Jesus?
- **I've seen Jesus** turn around so many lives here at this place! **I've seen Him** change the hardest of sinners! **I've seen Him** heal to most loneliest, hurtful and tragic filled hearts! **I've seen Him** give Peace and Joy and Rest! **I've seen Him** restore marriages! **I've seen Him** take a child and grow that child up to become an incredible Man of God! Woman of God! **I've seen Him** do it and **He is not done yet!** **I'm so Thankful for Jesus today!**
- **The question today** – “Are you willing to climb in faith? Are you willing to do what it takes to SEE Jesus? Or will you remain in your lost, sinful, tragic and no hope self?”
- **Zacchaeus was a THIEF! A very bad THIEF! He robbed everyone!** 19:7 – “**notorious!**”
- Luke 19:3 – even a full blown thief **SOUGHT** to **SEE** who Jesus really was!
- Luke 19:5 – “Called him by name” **Zacchaeus NEVER met Him BEFORE...but Jesus knew him BEFORE!!! / 19:6 – “quickly...excitement...joy...took Jesus to his house!” / 19:8 – shows the repentance! / 19:9 – “Salvation has come to this home today! / 19:10 – “Jesus came to seek and save the lost!”*
- Ecclesiastes 3:11 – Do not ignore the tug and pull of this in your heart from God!
- **How do we trust this story today?** *His Word is from Him!* 2 Peter 1:20-21 / 2 Timothy 3:16