

31st Sunday Ordinary Time - Year C

- Friday was the feast of All Saints –
 - A day to recall all those men and women recognized by our church as living lives so holy they've been declared Saints – already in heaven
- Saturday was the feast of All Souls –
 - Men and women who have gone before us to eternal life
 - We spent October recording the names of OUR deceased friends and relatives and we ask God to bless them
- Today we hear the story of Zacchaeus
 - Zacchaeus has something in common with the Saints AND our friends & relatives
 - FIRST – Zacchaeus was a sinner, a tax collector, a thief, collaborator with Romans
 - The saints were sinners too –
 - Our friends and relatives – all the souls gone before us – they were sinners too
 - SO – Zacchaeus sinned – Saints sinned – everyone in Book of Remembrance
 - BUT
 - They all had something else in common with Zacchaeus too
 - Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus
 - So he climbs a tree to see Him
 - The crowd wasn't going to let him through (he was Zacchaeus)
 - He was hated
 - Because he was a collaborator – considered UNCLEAN
 - Jesus passes by – surprise – Jesus calls out Zacchaeus
 - 1. Calls him by name
 - 2. Eats with him
 - 3. NO CRITICISM – healing & reconciliation HE LOVED HIM
 - 4. Zach reconciles with his victims

THERE IS A LESSON HERE

- Two parts to Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - a. With God
 - b. With Community
- Zach reconciles with Jesus
- Zach reconciles with victims (community)
- JOY AND LIBERATION OF RECONCILIATION & WE NEED IT
- Most sacraments we experience once
 - a. Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders, Matrimony
 - b. Reconciliation and Eucharist – over and over (God knows us)
- Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus – and it changed his life
- The Saints wanted to see Jesus – some spent a lifetime seeking Him – and it changed their lives
- Our friends and relatives in our Book of R – and we – want to see Jesus.
 - Jesus welcomes us – shares a meal with us – and forgives us – just like Zacchaeus
- There are many Zacchaeus' in our lives – they're all up a tree & we may pass under it every day
- Jesus challenges us to invite them to a meal
- WE must take the first step – inviting them with unconditional love to share a meal, have a drink – and we might be surprised to find that WE are spreading the good news.

Jesus says "I have come to save the lost."

US TOO