

31st Sunday Ordinary Time - Year C

- I have a friend who owns his own company – great success
- I asked WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE LIKE TO HAVE KNOWN AS A BOY
 - When you get to the mountain top – there's nothing there
 - Zacchaeus was successful – he had power, he had money
 - Yet he was hated
 - He was a collaborator – considered UNCLEAN
 - He was successful, on the mountain top – and there was nothing there
 - Zach wanted more – so he's on the outlook for Jesus
 - Jesus passes by – surprise – Jesus 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)
 - **Zach found peace**
 - **He'd been powerful – He'd had money – it was empty without GOD**
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- 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