

Upon Meeting Jesus

²A man was [in Jericho] named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. ³He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.' ⁶So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷All who saw it began to grumble and said, 'He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.' ⁸Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.'⁹

(Luke 19:1-9)



After encountering Jesus, a short, but wealthy tax collector named Zacchaeus turned around his life; he sought to right his relationship with his neighbors. Lent offers each of us the opportunity to view our relationships with our neighbors in the light of our relationship with Jesus.

Nearly one in four children in the US lives in a household that struggles to put food on the table. The number of hungry American neighbors continues to grow. Doesn't Jesus want us to turn that number around?



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