

Gospel Reflection

This week we hear the story of Zacchaeus, a successful man of the world. He represents each of us because like him we strive to be successful, we are distracted by the world, and we sometimes neglect to be thankful for all we have been given. Like Zacchaeus we are human and we need to be reminded.

Zacchaeus looks for Jesus. He seeks him out. He wants to know him. He also wants Jesus' understanding, compassion and forgiveness. Jesus tells him he is coming to his house to have dinner with Zacchaeus and his family. His faith in the power of the Lord enables him to "look upright," to face the criticism of his neighbors, to seek forgiveness, and to live a life of faith and peace. We too are encouraged to look to Jesus, to bring him into our daily lives through prayer, worship, and gratitude for all he has given us. Like Zacchaeus, we are forgiven for our unkindness to others. There is a Chinese proverb that says, "The tender feelings of the heart understand compassion." This is mercy. This is one of God's gifts to us.

The Gospel, however, tells us that to be at one with the Lord, we need to do more than merely have faith in Jesus and his forgiveness. We need to reach out to others, make amends, and give of our gifts to those less fortunate. As people seeking mercy, we need not only to ask forgiveness but also to make "restitution" in some way. We can do that by the giving of ourselves, our talents and our personal wealth.

Our stewardship pledge is not merely support of the church and its operations. Viewed in a larger perspective, our gifts to OLA are part of our recognition of God's goodness and mercy for our sinfulness and a way not only to heal ourselves but also to make available programs and activities that meet the many social, educational and spiritual needs of our parish and the larger community. We are invited to meet Jesus not just at Table on Sundays but by giving generously of our time and our talents to our OLA Community.

The OLA Stewardship Committee

KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

Luke 19:1-10

O S T N U T C E E H I M N
D T R O T X E J E O H U L
S N O I S S E S S O P I E
T A N A I O R U U H T E Y
A D L N H T T S R C O I E
T N N V G S E Y W I R R A
U E O E A R H C J R N H T
R C R T D T U A O E N N O
E S M A L W I M V J N U M
R E P A Y R O O B N R A E
I D E R E R E R N L T S W
E W E I P T O E C P E T T
H L A L T S M O M L N S I

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

SYCAMORE	STATURE	WEALTHY
TREE	CROWD	SALVATION
REPAY	HOUSE	JERICHO
EXTORT	SINNER	DESCENDANT
SHORT	GRUMBLE	POSSESSION

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
11/4/07*

*Luke 19:1-10
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.
Claremont, CA

www.olaclaremont.org

Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

The Word of God: *Luke 19:1-10*

The Gospel according to Luke:

At that time, Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town.

Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way.

When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." And he came down quickly and received him with joy.

When they all saw this they began to grumble, saying "He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have

extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over."

And Jesus said to him, "Today **salvation** has come to this house because this man too is a **descendant** of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and save what was lost."

The Gospel of the Lord



Gospel Glossary

Salvation: deliverance from sin.

Descendant: somebody related to an ancestor.

Extorted: obtained by force or coercion.

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- How would you compare yourself to Zacchaeus?
- What gifts and talents do you have that you could share?
- What would you do if Jesus said he was coming to your house for dinner today?

Closing Prayer

Father in heaven,

It is from your abundance that we have received every good gift. Direct our steps in our everyday efforts that the changing moods of the human heart and the limits which our failings impose on hope may never blind us to you, the source of every good. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time