



Jesus Our Friend

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The Parable of the Sower

When a large crowd gathered, with people from one town after another journeying to him, he spoke in a parable. "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up. Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold." After saying this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear." (Luke 8:4-8)

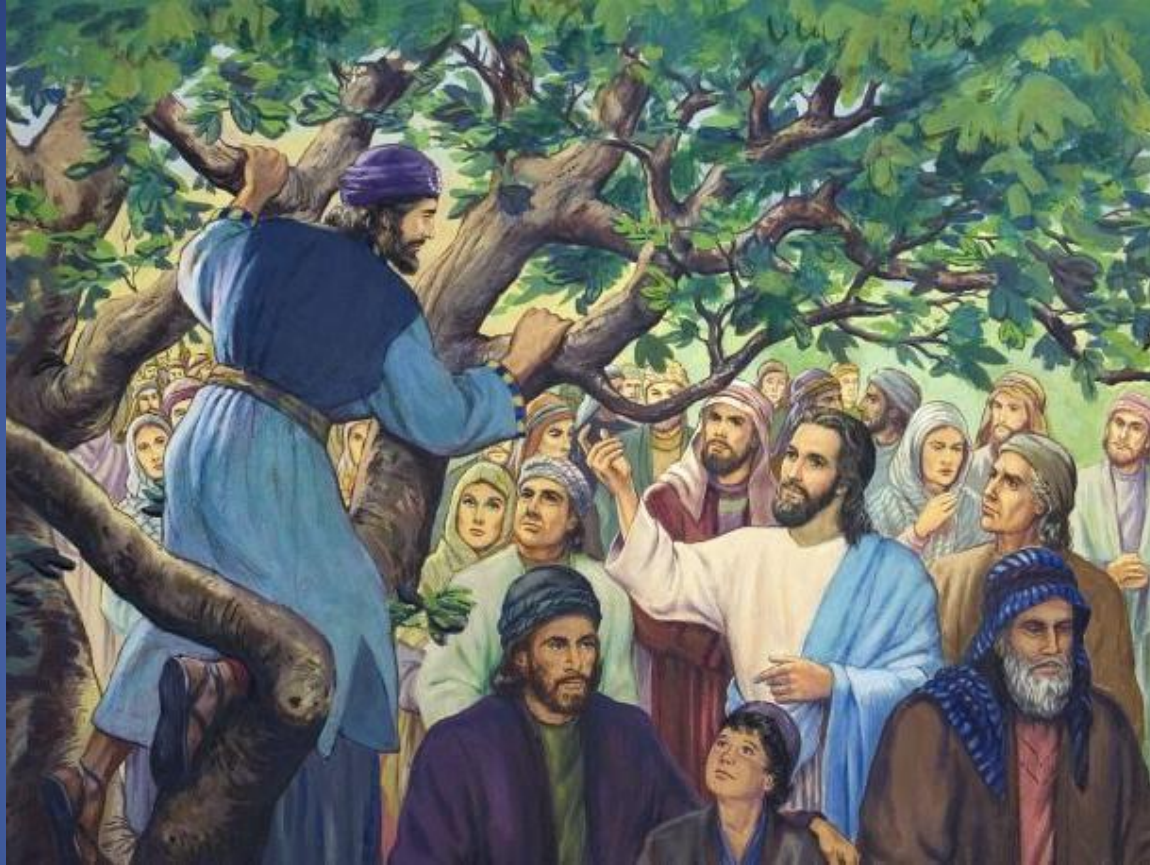


Relationships

What is required of us to have good relationships with our friends, our family and within marriage?

Building Relationship

- Time
- Effort
- Commitment



Zacchaeus—Tax Collector

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

Luke 19:5

The Good News

“Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you.”

Pope Francis-*Evangelii Gaudium*, Para 164

Children of God

But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God.

And the Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory as of the Father's only Son,
full of grace and truth.

(Jn 1: 12-14)

Grace

The grace of Christ is the gratuitous gift that God makes to us of his own life, infused by the Holy Spirit into our soul to heal it of sin and to sanctify it.

(CCC 1999)

Type of Grace

- Actual grace—each and everyday.
- Strengthen our hearts and minds to do God's will.
- Aware of God grace each and every day if we only choice to see it.

Types of Grace

- Sanctifying Grace
 - Every Sacrament
 - New Powers
 - Gift of the Holy Spirit
 - We are God's adopted Children
 - A way of life

Types of Grace

- Special Grace
 - Charisms-our individual gift for ministry or support.
 - Not for ourselves, they are met for the Community.

Loss and Increase of Grace

- We increase grace by doing good works.
- God will respond to our prayers for grace and his help in our daily livings
- Sanctifying grace is lost through mortal sin; through the Sacrament of Reconciliation we can restore our relationship with God.

Sacrament

The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions.

(CCC 1131)

Questions

- How do I know Jesus is present in my life?
- Have I ever felt that I was a member of Jesus' family; a child of God?
- How did Jesus bring me here tonight? How was the Holy Spirit made visible to me?
- What can I do to develop my relationship with Jesus?

RCIA Podcast and Handouts

<http://stjohn-catholic.org/formation/initiation/rcia-podcasts>