



Campbell Chapel

Sermon by Bob Bradley



Jesus Came to Seek and to Save

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Bob Bradley

There is one verse here on our mind. There are many different thoughts on our minds this evening. However, there is one verse here that we want to read tonight, and the Lord being our helper, we want to talk about.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

This is a part of a very familiar story. A story about a tax collector. If you went to Sunday school much in your life, probably you learned this story many years ago. I think, if my memory serves me correctly, Deb to sing a song about Zacchaeus to the kids when they were small. I know we sing it in Sunday school and different things. It is a wonderful story here.

I got to thinking today about what Jesus Christ is doing today. He is doing the same thing today that He did when He was here on earth. He is looking for people. The Bible says He is seeking to save those that were lost. That was the story here with Zacchaeus. That is what He was doing. He was looking for people. When you and I were unsaved, for the greater part of the time we were unsaved, we weren't looking for the Lord. We were not searching for Him. We were not looking for Him. We did not give it too much thought until Jesus came looking for us. When He spoke to our hearts and an old-time conviction came and revealed unto us that we were sinners and that Jesus died for us. He began to draw us unto a place of repentance. Before that time, we did not give much thought to Jesus. Do you know what He was doing? He was looking for us. Aren't you glad that He came looking for you? I'm glad that He came looking for me because I would have never found Him. Had He not come looking for me and knocked upon my heart's door and revealed Himself unto me then I would have never found Him and neither would have you.

The Bible is talking about the same thing here. When you read the story, Jesus Christ is in and around Jericho. Jericho may be 10 or 15 miles to the northeast here from Jerusalem. We know that Jesus is coming through Jericho and He is going to be going out of Jericho for the last time. We know that He is on His way to Jerusalem. We know that for three years or so, He has been telling the people, He has been telling His disciples that He was going to go to Jerusalem and they were going to kill Him. They were going to put Him to death. He was going to be condemned. They were going to put Him in a tomb. He was going to die but on the third day He was going to get up from the dead. He had been telling them and preaching unto them many times about that. Now He was getting very close to the time that was going to happen.

The Bible tells us here, when you read the story here; He is coming into Jericho. The Bible is going to tell us about a blind man that is sitting by the highway side begging. The Bible says his name is Bartimaeus. There is no doubt in my mind that when Jesus is coming this way there were throngs of people with Him. There were people everywhere. There were all kinds of commotion going on. This blind man when you read the Bible in chapter 18, and also in Mark, chapter 10; we know that he sat here by the highway side begging. He had no way to take care of himself. He had no way to work or provide for himself. He hears commotion. He hears some things that are going on. He hears a racket going on. He begins to inquire about what is happening. They begin to tell him, it is Jesus of Nazareth. He is passing by.

Listen. I thought about this lesson so many times in my life. I'm so glad that He passed by where I lived one time. I'm glad that He came passed the house when I got saved. Actually, before I got saved a few weeks before I got saved; Deb and I lived in an old house. It was a real old place that grandma and grandpa lived for years. We lived there. I can remember God speaking unto my heart, laying in the bed, in that old house. I remember He came passed my house and I would get the Bible out and I would begin to read. I would begin to read about Him, not knowing anything. Do you know what I did know? I did know that I needed Him. I did know that I was lost. I was done if He did not save me. Do you know it wasn't very long, after that, the little church up the road was having a revival? They had asked us to come. Deb had already got saved a few months before, but when we went that night God began to speak. The service was already dismissed. We were already outside. The pastor had already left. We had some people over here trading cattle. There were people over here talking about everything coming and going. However, I went over there...and said, I need to get saved. Do you know why? Jesus Christ was moving past my house. He was stirring my heart. I could remember, we went back inside and we began to pray, they did. You have heard me say this many, many times. I said three words. Lord, save me. Do you know what He did? He saved my soul on that night. He made me a brand-new creature. He cleaned up my mouth. He cleaned up my house. He cleaned up my walk. Do you know what?

Listen. He cleaned me up from top to bottom. Hallelujah! He is a God that can do that. Isn't He? We are blessed.

Jesus is passing through Jericho for the last time. Never again will Jesus, in His ministry here, pass this way. It is not going to happen.

I have a message for the devil tonight too. I have a message for you tonight scratch. Listen. You may aggravate me know. You may aggravate me tonight, but I have news for you. A million from now, while I am in heaven worshiping and praising God; do you know where you are going to be? You are going to be in a lake of fire. You are going to be burning and burning. I like to tell him that every now and then, to remind him how blessed that I am and how and what God has done for me. Praise His name.

The Bible says this.

Bartimaeus began to inquire who is it coming this way? Why do we have so much racket going on? They said, it is Jesus of Nazareth. He is passing by. Do you know what the Bible says? He began to cry out—Bartimaeus did—Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me. Listen. He knew he needed help. Not only that but also, he knew that Jesus Christ could help him. He was blind physically.

Thank God, there was a day that I was blind spiritually. Do you know what I knew? I knew He could give me sight. I knew He could forgive me. I knew He could clean me up. He did that. I want to praise His name for that tonight.

He began to cry, Jesus, thou son of David. Do you know what? When I read this story, I would say he wasn't whispering either. I would say he wasn't whispering at all. I would say he was to the top of his lungs. Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me.

Listen. That is what we need tonight. If you are a sinner, if you are unsaved; do you know what you need? Do you know what I needed? I needed the mercy of Almighty God. Do you know what this fellow needed, Bartimaeus needed? He needed the mercy from Almighty God. Do you know what Jesus did? Do you know what the crowd did, first of all? As he continues to cry, the crowd began to try to make him be quiet. Why don't you just be quiet? You just a blind boy sitting beside the road. You aren't worth nothing.

Listen. The enemy might tell you that you are just somebody that isn't worth anything. Listen. To the God of heaven, you are somebody. You are somebody He loves and that He died for on the cross. Don't ever let anyone convince you that you aren't worth anything. Don't let anyone convince you that you aren't worth saving. Listen. If God saved us, He will save you too. Amen!

Jesus, thou son of David. Claiming Him as the son of David, the king of Israel, the Messiah; have mercy on me. The crowd says, be quiet. I can remember times when the Lord was speaking to me. Do you know what the enemy would always tell me? You don't need to get saved tonight. You don't need to get saved tonight. You don't need to do that. You can do that when you get old and when you can't do anything else. Then you can give your life to the Lord and then you can start going to church.

Listen. If I hadn't gave my heart to the Lord, when I did; I would have never got old. I would have never have made it. Probably, you wouldn't have either.

Do you know what Jesus did? The Bible says, as this fellow, as Bartimaeus is crying out; he continues to cry out even though the crowd said, be quiet. Even though the crowd said, you aren't worth it. Even though the crowd said, why don't you just let Him alone. He is the king. He is the king of Israel. Just let Him alone. Do you know what Bartimaeus continued to do? He continued to cry, Jesus, thou son of David.

Get this. When you read the story, do you know what you will find out? You will find out that Jesus stood still. As he began to cry, as Bartimaeus cried, do you know what it did? It touched the heart of Jesus Christ.

When you cry out to Him tonight--I'm going to tell you something—you are going to get the Lord's attention. Do you know why? He is looking for people just like you. He is looking for people just like me. He is not looking for people who are smart or intelligent. He is not only look for those people, but He is looking for people just like me and just like you. We don't have any money. We don't have anything to offer Him. However, He is seeking people like me and you. We can't do anything. We figured out in life that we can't do anything. Do you know what I am glad of? I am glad when He moves in I can do a whole lot. I can do a lot and you can too, my friend.

Listen. When God comes in and saves you, your day will be different, and God will use you to bring glory to His name. I know that. You do too, if you have been saved. If you have not thrown in the towel.

Do you know what we have a lot of today? We have a lot of church members today, doing this—waving the white flag. Do you know what that means? I surrender. Not to Him, but they surrendered to the world. They caved in. Do you know what they decided? Hey, we are not going to do this any longer.

I want you to understand something tonight. If you think you are going to get saved, and just slide into heaven, then you are wrong; because it is going to be a battle. We are in a battle. We are in a war. Satan is going to do everything to get you wave the white flag and give up.

I am glad of something tonight. When we will seek the face of God, and when we will live as we should live; there is a spirit, there is a power that is on the inside. Do you know what He will do? He will keep me. Many times, in life, the enemy has tempted me. He brought all kinds of things in my past to try to upset me. Do you know what he will do? he will do the same thing for you. I am glad of something. There is no temptation that is common to all men. Do you know what Jesus Christ was? He was tempted in all points as we are yet without sin.

I'm glad with every temptation that comes my way that God will make a way of escape. You don't have to give in to sin. You don't have to wave the white flag. You don't have to surrender. That is for quitters. Amen! I don't want to be on that team. Do you?

When I was in school, I was always on the runt team. I was about this tall and about this big around. I've changed a little since then. I thought about what Tom said. ...never could see good. When you were playing softball or football—when you would choose teams, I was always the last one to get picked. Do you know why? He can't play. He can't do this or that. Do you know what? For a while I couldn't but do you know what I got to doing? I got tired of being the runt. I got tired of always being the last one. Do you know what I began to do? I began to work on some stuff in life. It

wasn't very long that this little old 4'2" guy that couldn't hit from 13 feet out with a basketball or 16 feet out; I got pretty good at it. It wasn't too long after that when they started playing basketball; do you know who they wanted? I would be the first one they would choose.

Get this. There is a lesson there for us. In life, do you know what I don't the world to do? I don't world to like me. I love everybody. I appreciate everybody. I pray for everybody. I want everybody to get saved. However, I don't want to be a friend to the world. When I become a friend to the world, I become the enemy of God. Amen!

Here is the thing. It is just like playing basketball. You guys remember Don Gullet? Everybody probably does. Don't you? He was a baseball player, but he also played football. I remember when I was just a little guy, and I'm not exaggerating. I was probably 4 ½ feet tall when I was in grade school. Don wasn't very big but he was muscular guy. I always played on the opposite team from him. He ran over me every time he got the ball. Every time he would get the ball, he would run over me. Do you know what I got to working on? I got to working on figuring out how I was going to get away from that dude. I still played but I figured out how to defend things a little bit.

Christian life is the same way. If we allow the enemy every day to run over us; day after day, do you know what we will do? We will want to wave the flag.

Listen. I purposed in my heart one thing. I will probably get knocked down again. I will get tripped up again in life. There is no doubt, that may happen. However, I have determined one thing. I am going to get up. I am going to dust myself off. Do you know what I am going to do? I am going to pick up the cross. I am going to continue to go forward. That is what you need to do tonight.

We all make mistakes friend. There is not a person sitting here in this building tonight that hasn't blown up a boat load of times. Here is the thing. We don't need to wave the white flag. We need to get up off of the ground and say, Lord, please forgive me. Then pick up the cross and go forward. Do you know what God will do? God will bless you.

Here is the lesson. Bartimaeus cried. He got vocal. Jesus stood still. Jesus asked him a simple question. He commanded him to come. Bartimaeus threw his coats off to the side, the coats he had on the outer garments. They brought him to where Jesus was at. He said, what do you want me to do for you? Do you know what Bartimaeus said? He said here that I might receive my sight. The thing that Bartimaeus needed, the greatest thing that he needed in life; was his sight.

Listen. A lot of times in life we think we need a lot of stuff. A lot of times in life we think that if I don't have this kind of a car, or this kind of a house, or make this much money and so on...or if I am not loafing with this group then I could never be happy.

I want you to understand something tonight. Happiness is going to come in your life when Jesus Christ moves in here. You can look for everything coming and going. You can buy every car. You can buy the biggest airplane. You can live in the biggest house

there is in this community but that does not bring peace to your heart. I am so very glad that Bartimaeus understood that he needed to receive, he needed his sight worse than he needed anything. Do you know what he did? That is exactly what he asked for? Lord, I want to be able to see. That is all he wanted to do. Do you know what the Bible is going to say here? He said, "Receive your sight, thy faith hath made thee whole. Thy faith hath saved thee." Do you know what I am glad of tonight? When we will put faith in the God of heaven, we will see Him work in our life.

Could you imagine this guy sitting beside the road? I don't know how old he was. He had sat here day after day, but this particular day was going to be a day like no other day.

Listen. This day in your life can be the greatest day in your life. If you are here and you are saved, the greatest day in your life was the day you got saved. If you are not saved, this can be the greatest day in your life. For Bartimaeus this was greatest day of his life. Could you imagine that? Sitting beside the road, no hope—that is where we were at.

We had no hope. We could cry to the crowd. The crowd could walk by us. We were miserable. We were empty. We were lonely. The crowd couldn't help us at all. We went. We loafed. We put on a good show. We laughed. We participated in worldly stuff. Yet, we were empty and the world could not help us. But one day is like no other day when Jesus Christ came by. I'm seeking you. I'm looking for you. I want you to come and follow me.

Do you know what Jesus could have done? Do you know what Bartimaeus could have done? Bartimaeus could have sat there and never said a word. I don't know where he heard about Jesus. Jesus has been preaching in this area for about three years. Therefore, he had heard about the healer somewhere along the line. He heard about this guy who could raise the dead and open blinded eyes, cure lepers, and walk on the water. He had heard about this guy. No doubt, because the Bible says, Jesus told him, thy faith has saved thee. He had faith in Jesus Christ. He had faith that Jesus Christ could heal him, touch his eyes. He had faith. He believed that. He heard and he believed. His day was changed from then on.

He goes down the road just a little farther and He encounters another guy. Totally, completely on different ends of the spectrum. We have a blind that doesn't have anything. He begs. We have a guy here that has all kinds of money. He could buy all he wants. The Bible says he was rich. He was a tax collector. He was somebody that was hated. The people hated tax collectors. Tax collectors were usually Jewish people that took money from Jewish people and gave it to Rome. They were hated. Not only did Bartimaeus hear about Jesus, but this tax collector that everybody hated, nobody liked him. I will show you how much they did not like him.

We know he was little in stature. He wants to see Jesus. The Bible says that. However, instead of getting in the crowd, he goes down the road and he is going to get away from the crowd. They don't like him. He knows that people hate him. Listen.

People may hate you. Listen. I have said this before many times. When everybody is bragging on me about how good I am doing; I really look out. The Bible says woe unto the man when all people speak well of him.

Bartimaeus was a blind man; he begged. Zacchaeus was a rich man that could buy whatever he wanted. Both of them in Jericho. Both of them, this was the last time they would get to see Jesus. This is the last time that He is going to come through town. If you read the story, you will find out that Jesus has entered Jericho. He is passing out of Jericho here. We know the Bible says here, that Zacchaeus is rich. He is chief among the publicans. The Bible says he sought to see Jesus, who He was, but he could not because he was little in stature. Thousands and thousands of people were probably walking with Jesus as He is walking towards Jerusalem. This time His popularity was great. A lot of people were following Him because He fed them. A lot of people were following Him to see Him do miracles. Some people were following Him because He loved them, they loved Him.

He comes down the street and He climbs in a tree. He probably never thought that Jesus Christ would ever see him.

Listen. He knows where you are at. He knows where you are at. He knows where you are at.

The Bible says they are passing along. Zacchaeus runs down and climbs up in a Sycamore Tree. He knows that Jesus is going to pass down this road this particular day. He does not know that it is going to be the last time. He wants to see Him. The Bible says that Jesus, as He is walking down the road; He gets down to where Zacchaeus is at and He stops. What would you think if you had been Zacchaeus? Somebody must have told Him I was up here. Some of these people that hate me, somebody must have told Him I was in the tree. Do you know what? No one had to tell Jesus where he was at. Jesus knew where he was at. Do you know what Jesus knew where he was at? Two things: Zacchaeus was looking to see the Lord, but greater than that, Jesus was seeking him. Jesus was looking for him.

If you are here tonight and unsaved, if you are listening to me around the world tonight, and you are unsaved; Jesus Christ is looking for you. He is seeking you.

The Bible says He stops. He looks up in the tree. Here Zacchaeus sits. All perched out in a tree. He probably thought he was hid. Jesus makes the statement, Zacchaeus, make haste and come down for today I am going home with you. That's okay. Isn't it? Do you know what Zacchaeus did? He came down. Do you know what he did not do? I don't think he took his time. I think he came down in a haste. I think he came down in a hurry. Do you know why? He was looking for somebody that could change his life. He was looking for somebody that could forgive his sin. He was looking for somebody that could do something in his life that money, possessions and power and prosperity could not do. he was looking for somebody that could change his life. The Bible says he made haste and came down.

When you read the story do you know what you are going to find out here? Zacchaeus begins to repent. Lord, if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I will restore him four-fold. If I have taken anything, I will give him back four times what I took. Do you know what that is? That is really true repenting. Do you know that? When a man will give up his money then he is really serious with God.

Listen. That is true. We have a lot of penny pinchers that are going to church today. Amen!

He says here, if I have taken anything, from anybody, by false accusation, I will restore him four-fold. Jesus said, speaking to this tax collector that everybody hated; this day is salvation come unto this house for as much as you are a son of Abraham, or a son of faith. Abraham is a father of faith. Just like Bartimaeus, Jesus told him thy faith has saved thee. That is exactly what He is telling Zacchaeus here. Zacchaeus, because of your faith, salvation has come to your house.

Do you know what happens here? Zacchaeus' life was changed. I don't know whether he gave up the tax collecting job or not. I don't have any idea. Levi was a tax collector. Levi may have told Zacchaeus about Jesus. I don't know. Matthew, who is Levi. He heard about Him somewhere. He believed Jesus could change his life. Jesus did change his life. He had faith in Jesus.

The Bible says that I read to you...

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

He is looking today. He is searching. Do you know what? He knows where you are at. Do you know what He will do from time to time in life? I don't know how many times He does this. He will come knocking. Revelation 3:20. Behold I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice and come and open the door I will come in and sup with him and he with me. That is Revelation 3:20, I think. Jesus is knocking here. He is seeking. Do you know what He wants to do? He wants to do the same thing with you that He did with Zacchaeus. He wants to go home with you. Amen!

Here is what happens. When you honestly and genuinely get saved—I'm not talking about signing a church card, or being baptized—when you honestly and sincerely and genuinely are born again the Holy Ghost moves in. The Holy Ghost is God. Amen! That is the book. Do you know what He does? He goes home with you. There is nobody like Him. He is the only one in this world that can actually put up with you and me. Amen!

The question is this. Do you want to take Him home with you tonight? You can. If you are here in this auditorium, if you are listening to me wherever you are at tonight; you may be in your own home, in a hospital room somewhere, you may be driving down the road in your car, you may half way around the world on a hillside taking care of a bunch of sheep somewhere, but do you know what you can do? You can take Jesus home

with you. He is looking. He is knocking. Not because He is mad at you. Not because He wants to destroy you. He is seeking you. He wants to save your life. He wants to give you eternal life.

Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Folks if you are not saved, you are lost. You have no hope if you don't know Jesus Christ. He is looking for you. He is looking for people who are unsaved. Do you know what He wants to do? He wants to save you. He wants to change your life.

Come and pray—