

What an awesome time we had last Sunday morning as we had Children's Church in the sanctuary. I want to extend a BIG THANK YOU to Cara DeSmidt and Joyce Johnson and everybody else who made the service such a big success. Please beat the crowd and see either one of them to begin helping with the task of *'training up our children in the way they should go!'*

By the way there is no truth to the rumor that we did Children's Church upstairs last week because I couldn't remember to release the children. However, it did work didn't it?

Our text this morning finds us back in the Gospel of Luke. May we all stand in honor of God's Word as we read together please?

Luke 6:17-19 NKJV

17 'And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, 18 as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. 19 And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all.'

Let us remain standing as we lift our voices in prayer together:

The title of the message this morning is **'Jesus Came to Seek and to Save that Which was Lost.'**

If you are here this morning and you are lost I have the honor of informing you that Jesus Christ is searching for you and His desire is that you will be found!

If you are here this morning and you are wandering I have the honor of informing you that Jesus Christ is searching for you and His desire is that you will find your way home!

If you are here this morning and you are far from God I have the honor of informing you that Jesus Christ is searching for you and His desire is that you will draw close!

If you are here this morning and you have turned your back on God I have the honor of informing you that Jesus Christ is searching for you and His desire is that you will turn back to Him!

There are 2 things I notice right off the bat from our text which I want us to begin to center our thoughts on this morning:

The first: Jesus came down to teach and to touch.

The second: The people came over to hear and be healed.

That kind of works out nice doesn't it? He came down to teach and to touch and they came over to hear and be healed. In other words you might say that Jesus was seeking and He found some who were in need of saving!

EX: My grandmother is a tremendous cook and baker. Wow! She used to run the chicken cacciatore booth at the Little Italy Festival in Clinton, Indiana which is no small honor. Everybody and their dog would always heap compliments on her about what a great cook she was. One day my grandfather spoke up and said '**Hey, nobody ever compliments me on being such a great eater. What good is a great cook with out a great eater?**'

This passage informs us that not only did Jesus come down but that the people came over and the result was '*He healed them all.*'

While we might shrug this off as a 'no-brainer' I suggest we look a little closer because the scriptures are full of places where Jesus came to teach and to touch and the people that came didn't seem to be inclined to hear and be healed.

Rather, they seemed to come to doubt and debate; to heckle and harass; to endure and ignore; or to simply listen and to languish.

I wonder why some of us came this morning? Let's take a look.

First off:

1. Jesus came down to teach and to touch.

In our text this morning Jesus had just spent the night in prayer in preparation for choosing the 12 disciples. Now, He descends from this lofty place and '*stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people*' in verse 17. He was seeking.

By His grace our Savior Jesus Christ has 'come down' into the world:

Galatians 4:3-5 NKJV

3 'Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. 4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.'

At just the right time Jesus came down to seek us out and save us so we could be **redeemed from the law** and **receive adoption** as His children!

He came to redeem us from the penalty of the law.

To be redeemed from the law means: *by a payment of a price to recover from the power of another, to ransom, buy off.*

To receive adoption as His children means: that relationship which God was pleased to establish between himself and the Israelites in preference to all other nations; and it the nature and condition of the true disciples in Christ, who by receiving the Spirit of God into their souls become sons of God; it is also the blessed state looked for in the future life after the visible return of Christ from heaven.

This is great news! Jesus came down and the people came over. Jesus came to seek and they came to be saved!

Secondly:

2. The people came over to hear and be healed.

Who was it that came over? *'a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people.'* A crowd and a multitude.

Where did they come over from? *'from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon.'*

Why did they come over? *'who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him.'* It sounds like they came with intent!

What happened when Jesus came down and they came over? *'power went out from Him and healed them all.'*

Jesus was seeking and He was definitely saving! This is what He did then and this is what He still does today!

There is a wonderful example of Jesus coming down and somebody coming over in Luke 19:1-10

Luke 19:1-10 NKJV

1 Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. 2 Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. 3 And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house." 6 So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. 7 But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner." 8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold." 9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; 10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Jesus came to seek and to save that which is lost.

Jesus came down:

1 Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.

Zacchaeus come over:

2 Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. 3 And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way.

-He positioned himself to see Jesus. He wanted not only to hear but to see. There was desire present to move him into position.

-Sometime life will help move you into position. [The woman taken in adultery and found herself thrown at Jesus' feet].

-Sometimes we find ourselves up a tree or out on a limb.

Jesus saw exactly where Zacchaeus was:

5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house."

- Sometimes we might climb a tree to see Jesus; other times we climb a tree to avoid being seen.
- And He wanted to be there with him [*I must abide with you!*]

Jesus spoke exactly to where Zacchaeus was:

- He called him by name
- I am convinced it isn't that Jesus isn't speaking to us where we are; it's that we are ignoring what He is saying.
- he called him to take action.
- Look at Zacchaeus' response when He was spied out!

Zacchaeus responded:

6 So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully.

- Hurried up, came down, received joyfully.

Typical religious person's response:

7 But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."

Evidence of a change: repentance, turning from and towards:

8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."

- Jesus came to teach and touch you just the way you are but not to leave you just the way you came. [Go thy way; sin no more]
- God changes your heart; allow your heart to change your ways!

Good News: salvation has come:

9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham;

He didn't just come to seek; He came to save, and in a BIG WAY!. **Hebrews 7:25** tells us '*Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him.*'

A.W. Pink wrote concerning this salvation: this is a fourfold salvation: saved from the penalty, power, presence and most importantly the pleasure of sin.

Not only in the now but with a promise of a future realization in eternity!

How is this possible? Jesus didn't just come to teach and to touch; He came to seek and to save!

'for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.'

Seek: dzay-teh'-o

to seek in order to find, to enquire into, to seek after, seek for, aim at, strive after, require, demand, to crave, demand something from someone

Save: sode'-zo

to save, keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction one (from injury or peril), to save a suffering one (from perishing), i.e. one suffering from disease, to make well, heal, restore to health to preserve one who is in danger of destruction

SO what does this mean for us this morning?

No matter if you are hiding in a tree, or in the crowded multitude, or sitting in the middle section, or at home alone on your couch later today:

'The Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.'

Jesus is pretty good at what He does!

Jesus came down to teach and touch.
Jesus came to seek and to save.

Did you come this morning to hear and be healed? Maybe you didn't come for that reason but you've heard and realize you are need of healing.

Today salvation has come to your house!

Let's pray:

Casey's song: 'I'm Coming Home.'

-Have you found yourself sitting alone this morning?

-Have you found yourself looking for someone or something to blame?

Is it time for you to come home?