

# The Servant

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*The purpose of this newsletter is to pass along information and ideas to help the Lord's servants as they minister to others. Feel free to use any of it in your ministry*

## “Who He Was”

*“And he sought to see Jesus who he was...” Lk. 19:3*

Zacchaeus climbed the tree to see “Jesus who he was.” Since then many others have tried to do the same. Jesus was passing by and Zacchaeus wanted to “see” who Jesus was with his own eyes. Be it through pew or perch, every church should be a place that helps people small and great get a glimpse of who Jesus was. Who He **was** is very important for everyone to see. He **was** the One who **was** wounded for our transgressions, He **was** bruised for our iniquities. He **was** despised and rejected. He **was** a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. That’s is who He **was**. He **was** born of a virgin. He **was** laid in a manger. He **was** in the world, and the world **was** made by Him. He **was** arrested by evil men. He **was** put through the mockery of a trial. He **was** condemned and crucified on a Roman cross, and He **was** laid in a borrowed grave. Yes, Zacchaeus climbed the tree to see who Jesus was, but it changed his life when he saw who Jesus **is**.

Who He was is one thing, who He is is another. He is someone who sees me right now. He is someone who not only knows my name, but knows me from top to bottom. He is someone who loves me in spite of my sin. He is someone who died to save my soul. That is who He is.

Most churches do a fairly good job at showing the world who Jesus was. In that regard, one church is as good as another. The New Testament church of Peter, James, and John left the upper room, empowered by the Holy Spirit, setting out to show the world who Jesus is. Today, the world may think it knows who Jesus was, but it still does not have any idea who Jesus is. He is risen. He is Savior. He is Lord. He is Alive. He is the First and the Last, the Alpha and Omega. The world will be unmoved if it only sees who He was, and never knows who He is. The sadness of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus is all wrapped

up in that word “was” (Lk. 24:19). It is who Jesus “is” that matters.

Zacchaeus had to discover who Zacchaeus was in the process of making the greater discovery of who Jesus is. When considering his “net-worth,” many would agree that he was “rich.” But what he or I “was” is not as important as what we are now in Christ, and what we are is nothing compared to what we shall one day be. “Come down,” said Jesus. No one is ever saved until they do. We all think “too highly” of ourselves. We all need to “come down.” No one can be saved and look down on Jesus. By the time Zacchaeus’ feet touched the ground, he was a new man, after seeing who Jesus “was,” he discovered who Jesus “is.”

## Σκανδελον

A crooked stick that springs the trap  
For a snare to catch its prey  
Christ carried it upon His back  
Up that awful hill one day

Now set just so the evil spring  
It’s design to so surprise  
And startle some poor helpless thing  
As it claims it as its prize

But as Christ stepped to its center  
He bravely took all the pain  
Nor feared He the scandal enter  
For this was just why He came

So the deathtrap thus was broken  
As it crashed upon the Rock  
And in dying pardon’s spoken  
And my prison’s door unlocked

# Candy Churches

*“Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.” (Phil. 3:19)*

Remember the famous gingerbread house? Remember how poor little Hansel and Gretel did not stand a chance against the wicked witch who used their own little taste buds to entrap them? Satan still makes his Gingerbread houses of “worship.” The evil genius still uses mankind’s own taste buds to woo the witless to their own destruction. Carnal senses will always want the candy more than, say—the cauliflower. Don’t worry, America is not eating too much cauliflower. If swelling waistlines speak volumes, they talk not of vegetables. We must blame our poor condition on our appetite for sweets and all the “comfort foods.”

Gingerbread churches are springing up on every corner like so many fast food restaurants, all as a matter of “taste.” Gone are the days when any might have to hear something that makes one feel uncomfortable. Of course, it’s all about being comfortable these days, isn’t it? Any martyr of the Christian Church would be astonished to see what we call the church today. Don’t look for any Cotton Mathers in the age of Cotton Candy Christianity. It is hard to imagine Jonathan Edwards preaching his famous “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,” today somewhere between the coffee and donuts, and the drumbeats of the Contemporary Worship Service. Powerful preaching has been replaced by Power Point and Pyrotechnics. Gone are the days when fires fell from heaven and prophets thundered in the wilderness. We love our spiritual pecan rolls. We love our sweets, soft sermons and soft drinks. Holy wood has given way to Hollywood and grease paint has replaced repentance. The crowd that loves the

sugar still does not know what is best for them. Barabbas still looks better. We are too easily fooled by our tastes and our temperaments.

Children love candy. Who can blame them? I, too, would rather have a cookie today than to worry about having my teeth filled at the dentist tomorrow. One feels so much better than the other. That is exactly what is wrong with the “feel good” gospel. The New Testament church was more concerned about doing good than feeling good.

Every Sunday millions munch on sugar laced sermons that drip with the doctrines of self-indulgence and which assure everyone that God Himself is more “relaxed” and “casual” these days. Casual Fridays have evolved into Carefree Sundays, and faith has become more a franchise where each can “have it there way” instead of God’s way. At least Cain brought vegetables, today we expect God to be content with our cookie sermons and messages that have the spiritual caliber of a BB gun. God is seeking such as worship Him in spirit and in truth. God is looking for a broken and a contrite heart. Today Matthew need not forsake his tax table to enjoy the Lord’s table. No need to “count the cost,” when there is no cost. This is not to say God is sour or that real worship is joyless. Doing as we please is not the bench mark of true worship. Speaking of the Father, Jesus said, “I always do those things that please Him.” Seems we are trying to please everyone but Him these days. The sign outside the church lists a smorgasbord of traditional, contemporary, progressive, and modern services. Take your pick.

When Jesus was visiting the Holy City things were buzzing down at the temple and business was booming. Every Rabbi had their own little following and everyone was an expert on God. Satan’s things fool the tongue as they fill the belly. The world will gladly give away its free samples in order to ruin our ap-

petite for God. Yes, God has His sweet things too. His are healthy. His Word is “sweeter” than the honeycomb. Keep your gingerbread. I have found something sweeter. “Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled” (Mat. 5:6). ☹

## The Seven C’s of Christian Service

- 1. Converted.** Until a person is born again there can be no Christian service. “Even the plowing of the wicked is sin.” Prov. 21:4
- 2. Changed.** Once born again, we are different and changed into a new creature. 2 Cor. 5:17
- 3. Committed.** The word means a pledge as in wanting to “be with” another. God’s treasures are to be committed to faithful stewards. 2 Tim. 2:1-7
- 4. Cleansed.** Christ came to claim us and to clean us. Lk. 5:12. “Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the LORD.” Isa. 52:11; Ps. 24:4; Ps. 51:10; 1Jn. 1:9
- 5. Cheered.** Christian service is happy service. “Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” Jn. 16:33.
- 6. Charitable.** Everything done without charity does not count. “If I have not love, I am nothing.” 1 Cor. 13
- 7. Commended.** His wish is our command. Jn. 2:5. A servant’s commendation comes from God. Only He can take it away. 2 Cor. 10:18 ☹



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