

Out On A Limb

Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector who longed to see Jesus (Luke 19:1-10). When Jesus passed by, Zacchaeus couldn't see Him because he "was of short stature." He ran ahead of the crowd and climbed up into a sycamore tree so that he could see Jesus when He passed by.

Zacchaeus literally went out on a limb to see Jesus! He also went out on a limb metaphorically. Here was a rich man of society who humbled himself, risking criticism from his peers, to see Jesus!

Do you refrain from religion because you are afraid your friends will criticize you, make fun of you, or even reject you? Zacchaeus was willing to go out on a limb to see Jesus.

Folks today need to be willing to take the same risks. After all, the most important thing isn't whether our friends, family, or co-workers accept us. The most important and most essential thing is for Jesus to accept us. He taught that those who are not willing to forsake mother, father, son, or daughter are not worthy of Him (Matthew 10:37-38).

There were some Jews who believed in Jesus but would not confess Him for fear of being put out of the synagogue (John 12:42). They weren't willing to go out on a limb for Jesus.

Jesus accepted and honored Zacchaeus; and Zacchaeus repented and became a follower of Jesus. You, too, must go out on a limb to see Jesus and accept His teachings.

Don't go out on a broken limb by embracing a false religion which follows things not taught in Christ's doctrine; but hear the Gospel, believe in Jesus, repent of your sins, and be baptized for the remission of your sins (Mark 16:16, Acts 22:16) so you may be saved.

So, how about it?

Do you want to see Jesus?

The Tree's there!

Start climbing!

Go out on a limb!

-Michael Pickford
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Good Works

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

-1 Corinthians 15:58

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."

-Galatians 6:9-10

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

-Ephesians 2:10

"looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works."

-Titus 2:13-14

"This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men" ... "And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful."

-Titus 3:8, 14

"But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

-1 John 3:17-18

"Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

-1 Timothy 6:17-19

"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."

-James 1:27

"how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."

-Acts 10:38

"Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

-Revelation 14:13