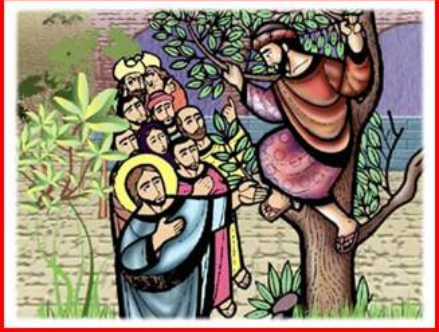


Zacchaeus		
Presence of God	Considering how God looks at me.	
History Luke 19, 1 – 10	<p>1 He entered Jericho and was going through the town</p> <p>2 and suddenly a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance; he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man.</p> <p>3 He kept trying to see which Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd; 4 so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way.</p> <p>5 When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I am to stay at your house today.'</p> <p>6 And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully.</p> <p>7 They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house,' they said.</p> <p>8 But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.'</p> <p>9 And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham;</p> <p>10 for the Son of man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'</p>	
Petition	<i>Lord, may I know you more clearly, love you more deeply and follow you more nearly!</i>	
Contemplation	<p>vv 1 – 4 Zacchaeus longs to see Jesus</p> <p><i>Everybody despised Zacchaeus because of his job, because he collected taxes from his own people and gave the money to the Romans. Everybody loathed and feared him because sometimes he resorted to violence to get the money.</i></p> <p><i>One day he learned that Jesus was coming into town. As he was too short, he climbed a tree to get a glimpse of Him. It was also a good place to see Jesus without being seen...Because, what would people think of him?</i></p> <p><i>Let's imagine how Zaccheus felt. Why did he long to see Jesus?</i></p>	<p>Jericho represents the wall that prevents God from getting into our hearts to establish his Kingdom of love. The People of God, on their way to the promised land, ran into trouble when they reached Jericho, and they couldn't solve the problem by themselves. Only God could tear down the wall around Jericho and the wall of corruption around Zaccheus.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(cfr. Joshua 6)</p>

v 5 Jesus wants to be Zaccheus' friend
Imagine Jesus surrounded by a big crowd (just like when the people gather to see the Pope); everybody wanted to touch him, to be with him.
Suddenly, Jesus saw Zaccheus hiding on the tree, and felt that he was the one who needed His help the most, because his job led him to harm people and nobody liked him. Jesus feels sorry because Zaccheus is lost, on bad terms with everybody else, and cannot overcome the situation.
So Jesus stopped and spoke to Zaccheus in order to offer him His friendship; because Jesus came for all of us, without exception.
What did Jesus tell Zaccheus? How did Zaccheus realize that Jesus wanted to be his friend? He invited himself to dinner!!
Let's imagine how Zaccheus felt when Jesus spoke to him in front of all the people and invited Himself to his house... he, who was regarded as the worst person ever... he, who was despised by his fellow countrymen... Imagine ...what did Zaccheus do?

vv 7 – 10 Zaccheus organizes a party
Zaccheus was thrilled because, for the first time in a long while, someone showed him affection.
So Zaccheus organized a party at home and promised Jesus to give the money back to his people.
Let's imagine... How did Zaccheus feel? Who did he invite to the party? Imagine the way Jesus looks at his new friend, who starts a new life because he feels loved.

Zaccheus represents a marginal within society, somebody who is despised because he has sold out to the enemy. This is an extreme sin.

Jesus comes for all of us, especially for those who need him the most.

Jesus loves us all, without exception. His love goes beyond our merits and our sins. He loves us because we have been created and saved by Him.

Colloquy *Let's sit on the carpet, on the promised land, near Jesus, to hear him in the silence of our hearts.*
Imagine that Jesus invites Himself to your house. Imagine that today your FRIEND Jesus will go home with you.
What are your plans for the afternoon?
In silence, invite Him to stay with you for ever.

