



**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Wednesday, March 17, 2021**

**Scripture: Luke 19:6-10 / John 14:6**

**TITLE: Jesus is Savior**

Have you ever lost something very precious to you? I am constantly losing my wallet. I'm notorious for getting out to the car and immediately coming back into my home, digging in couch cushions, looking in the trash, and searching the laundry for my wallet. I will spend as much time as I need, and doing whatever it takes, to find my wallet. It has my license to drive, my credit card to purchase, and a note from my son. It's precious, and I will do anything to find it.

Well, God sent Jesus on a search and rescue mission. You see, God loves His creation, even when His creation is broken and has rejected Him. What was that plan? Who would complete this mission? His name is Jesus. So who is Jesus? Jesus is the Savior.

Listen to this true story of a sinner's encounter with Jesus from Luke 19:6-10 (NLT):

<sup>6</sup> Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. <sup>7</sup> But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled.

<sup>8</sup> Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"

<sup>9</sup> Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

I love that story of Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a rich man, but had no friends. Tax collectors were disliked - today, just like we dislike the IRS – but it was worse. They could charge whatever they wanted, as long as the government got their portion. So, tax collectors were despised. But Jesus sees Zacchaeus hanging out in a tree and says, "Get down here!" Zacchaeus, in offering to pay back above and beyond, shows his true repentance, and salvation is received. He was lost, but Jesus found Him.

Today, people don't want to talk about sin or the need for salvation - just like the overweight don't want to hear about healthy living; just like the broke and indebted don't want to hear about budgets and sacrifice. But this is why Jesus came to Earth. Jesus is God in the flesh. Jesus is God's Son. And He is the Savior.

In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but through me." (ESV)

That's the deal. Salvation and peace with God are experienced exclusively through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

So here's my challenge for you today: If you're not in a personal relationship with Jesus, He came to save you from your sins. All you have to do is turn from your sin and turn to Jesus. Confess your sin to Him and ask Him for forgiveness. Believe in His death, burial, and resurrection today.

If you do know Jesus as Savior, share the Good News of this rescue mission with someone who's far from God. Who is that person who needs to hear this message of forgiveness and hope?

No sinner is unreachable with God's mercy and grace. That's because Jesus is the Savior.