



"And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature."
– Luke 19:3

Facing Obstacles

- What are some of the obstacles we face as Christians?
- How did Zacchaeus face such obstacles?



1. Self-Pity

- *"And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature."* (Luke 19:3)
- David and his men suffered horrific loss
 - *"Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God."* (1 Sam. 30:6)



2. My Pride

- Am I concerned with how I look before others?
- A person of my education, status, etc. should not...
- *"Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich." (Luke 19:2)*



3. Shame or Embarrassment

- Am I overly concerned with what people think or say about me?
- Sometimes we hide behind the notion of “not wanting to offend anyone.”
- Or, “I don’t want them to think I am a saint.”
 - *“To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, **called to be saints...**” (1 Cor. 1:2)*
- *“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels.” (Luke 9:26)*



4. Competition

- *"And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature." (Luke 19:3)*
- Do we have the "me first" attitude?
 - Do I sacrifice other in my pursuit of first place?
- This is the wrong attitude even is the goal is righteous
 - *"Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. And He said to her, 'What do you wish?' She said to Him, 'Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom.'" (Matt. 20:20-21)*



5. Ridicule

- A rich man in a tree...
- *"But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, 'He has gone to be a guest with a **man who is a sinner.**'"*
(Luke 19:7)
- Do we succumb to the **false accusations** of others?



6. Comfort and stability

- *"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.'"* (Luke 19:8)
- God may ask us to give up our comfort and stability
 - Abraham
 - *"Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing."* (Gen. 12:1-2)



How did Zacchaeus face such obstacles?

1. He did not discourage himself
 - *"Then David said to the Philistine, 'You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.'"* (1 Sam. 17:45)
2. He was determined in his pursuit
3. Disregarded the comments of others
4. How Zacchaeus responded to the Lord Christ's self-invitation
 - *"So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully."* (Luke 19:6)