

Catechism Story 12

*The Seventh and Eighth Commandments
Memory Verse and Catechism Prayers from Congregation at Prayer*

BIBLE STORY: JESUS COMES TO ZACCHAEUS' HOUSE

Luke 19:1-10

Central Thoughts

- Jesus shows Himself to be the Son of God and the Savior of sinners.
- Zacchaeus had broken the 7th and 8th Commandments. He stole from people by falsely accusing them, so that he could overcharge them for their taxes and make himself rich.
- Jesus comes to call us to repentance for our sin and to call us to faith in Him for the forgiveness of our sins.
- Salvation is a gift of God's grace through Jesus who has died for us upon the cross.
- Jesus' forgiveness moved Zacchaeus to give half of his goods to the poor and to restore whatever he had taken through false accusation.

Discussion Questions

What sin were tax collectors commonly guilty of in Bible times?

Using their power as tax collectors to steal money from the people (Seventh Commandment).

Why did Zacchaeus want to see Jesus?

He wanted to know who Jesus really was.

Why did Zacchaeus climb up into a sycamore tree?

He was short and could not see Jesus above the crowd.

What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus?

"Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house."

What was Jesus calling Zacchaeus to with these words?

Repentance for his sin and faith in Jesus for salvation.

What was Jesus teaching Zacchaeus when He said to him, "Today I must stay at your house"?

That He loved Zacchaeus and was the Savior of sinners (See the memory verse for the week: Romans 5:8).

What sins did Zacchaeus confess?

Lying (8th Commandment) and stealing (7th Commandment).

How did Zacchaeus show his repentance and faith in Jesus?

"Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."

How did sinful Zacchaeus receive Jesus into his home?

With joy.

How did the crowd react to Jesus going into Zacchaeus' home?

They complained that Jesus went to be the guest of a sinner. They trusted in their own works and did not believe that Zacchaeus was worthy of Jesus because he was a sinner.

What does Jesus announce about Zacchaeus?

"Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

What does this teach us about who Jesus is?

He is the Savior of all sinners.

What does it mean to be a son of Abraham?

To believe in Jesus and the promise of salvation through faith in Him.

Meditation on the Bible Story

Zacchaeus wanted to see who Jesus really was, because he had heard of the mercy and compassion that Jesus had so freely and abundantly shown to sinners. Zacchaeus learned that sinners could not make themselves acceptable to God or earn His favor by their own works. Jesus came to Zacchaeus, called him to repent of his lying and stealing, and brought the gift of salvation into Zacchaeus' house. The Lord does the same thing for us. He comes to us because He loves us. He has died for all our sins. We cannot earn His salvation or make up for what we have done. He calls us to repentance for all our sins, including stealing and lying, so that we might receive His forgiveness. By His forgiveness and mercy, we are strengthened to "help our neighbor improve and protect his possessions and income" and to "defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything about him in the kindest way."

Prayer on the Bible Story

O Lord Jesus, as you visited Zacchaeus' house and called him to repentance for his sin because You loved him, so visit us every day with Your Word, calling us to repentance and bestowing upon us the gift of Your forgiveness. Teach us to trust in Your love for us that we might live in Your love for others. In Your name we pray, Amen.

Prayers on the Seventh Commandment

Heavenly Father forgive us our sins of stealing and strengthen our faith in Jesus so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, heavenly Father, in the Seventh Commandment You teach us that all our possessions and income are gifts of your love. You have given us our daily work and earthly resources that we might serve our neighbor in need. For Jesus' sake, forgive us our sins of selfishness and greed, of being stingy and making a god out of our money and possessions, of cheating others to get what we don't deserve, of being lazy in our daily tasks, and of working only for the benefit of ourselves. We thank You for the privilege of being able to share Your love and care for others through the daily work and temporal gifts You have given us. Grant us Your grace and compassion in Jesus that we might be faithful stewards of these gifts, using them according to Your will to help our neighbors in need, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers on the Eighth Commandment

Heavenly Father forgive us our sins of giving false testimony against our neighbor and strengthen our faith in Jesus so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything about him in the kindest way, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Most merciful God and Father, in the Eighth Commandment You teach us that a person's good name and reputation are gifts of your grace and that you desire them to be defended and protected by what we say. For Jesus' sake, forgive us for every form of lying, gossip, and slander which hurts our neighbor in the eyes of others. Forgive us for all the ways in which we pass judgment against our neighbor when we have not been given the authority to do so. Forgive us for failing to defend our neighbor when his good name and reputation are being attacked by others. By Your words of grace and mercy to us in Jesus, teach us to tell the truth in love, and strengthen us to cover our neighbor's sins with words of forgiveness and compassion, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



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