

# HOW ON EARTH DID YOU GET HERE

*Acts 17:28 For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said...,*

God has more control over your life than you realize.

One of the portions of the Word that seeks to convince us of this reality is ***Luke 19*** which takes us to the streets of Jericho.

The Bible describes Jericho as the “City of Palm Trees.”

Jericho was flourishing with the construction of numerous villas, the cultivation of date palms, and the production of wine, spices, and perfumes.

A city of opportunity and a place where traders and political elites lived, and business was growing, water was flowing, and people were doing well.

On the other side you had homeless outcasts often lining the roads in and out of town because it was a good place to encounter the “well-to-do” and “better offs”.

***Luke 19:1*** *He entered Jericho and was passing through it.*

On a mission towards Jerusalem to fulfil His destiny - the crucifixion. Wouldn't leave the area until His death.

So just passing through, being Jesus, healing 1-2 blind people.

On His way, He finds a man on a tree: How on earth the man got there?

*Luke 19:2 A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich.*

Opportunist, typical for Jericho - a place to become rich.

Working with the Occupier - against his own people (*vs 7*)

Collecting hard earned and worked for money for those who came in by force to "milk the land".

He became rich, apparently not illegally, but morally compromised.

*Luke 19:3-4 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. 4: So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way.*

Sometimes good things start with trying.  
People get in the way (crowd).

*Luke 19:7 All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.”*

Your own problems get in the way.  
Put in some effort in good hope.

*Luke 19:5 When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.”*

Jesus knows him - by name - and always did. He saw him as son (vs 9)

*I must* (Gods intention towards you)

*At your house* (not in the temple / at church - God is only interested in who and what we really are)

*Hurry* there is a place for urgency (Jesus is passing through) also true for our lives.

We have to be aware of opportune times (of vulnerability, loss, sadness, change - How on earth did I get here moments)

*Luke 19:6 So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him.*

He was happy. That's what Jesus really wants  
(Peace, Joy, Righteousness)

That is the strong power for change.

*Luke 19:8* Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.”

He found the motivation to do what he already knew. *Exodus 22:1–4*

Being a Christian is not so much about knowing the right things, but the reality of finding the power to actually do what we know is right in the love of Jesus.

The Holy Spirit *Psalms 40* (not sacrifice, but an ear)

He was changed. The need to become rich.

Other than Levi / Matthew he did not become one of the twelve or 70 he stayed in Jericho, presumably as a Tax Collector.

## **How can he be different?**

Some are called to leave everything, most are called to be a right where they are.

*Luke 19:9-10* Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. **10:** For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”