

# Maple Springs Baptist Church

## Series: Your Story for God's Glory

### Week 2: Don't Miss the Point of Your Story

The point of this series is to recognize that You Are A Major Part Of God's Story For This World. He created you for a reason and placed you in your family, your community, and this moment for a purpose. Last week... how to live a better story. Know your story. Know who you are and what you're here for. Then passionately pursue your story with everything you have.

**It's important to remember the point of your story.** God has called you to impact the lives of those around you.

This week we are looking at a familiar story about a little guy experiencing a big God. When this story is placed in proper context, it reveals radical truth about the heart of Jesus for His people.

#### **Luke 19:1-10 Context of the Passage:**

- Zacchaeus' behavior was crazy for a man of this time.
- Notice: Jesus went through Jericho. This was not the best way to get to Jerusalem; it was not safe. He walked an extra 12 miles. Why would He do that? Jesus wanted to meet with the chief tax collector and help him experience salvation.
- It's easy to let our routines become distractions.

#### **ONE: Don't miss the point.**

- Jesus went out of his way to see this man — he didn't see him as an interruption. Zacchaeus was the object.
- Jesus shows us the point here: **sometimes you have to go out of your way for the sake of the gospel.**
- **Don't miss the point of your life's story.**
  - The point is to put God's radical love for others into action every single day.
  - The point is to know God's will and do it.
  - The point is to point others towards God.

#### **TWO: Don't forget your calling.**

- Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, where He would enter town on a donkey before being crucified for our sins. Palm Sunday
- However, Jesus made a pit stop to invite Zacchaeus, an untouchable, a filthy, rotten thief, out to dinner.

- **Jesus did not see Zacchaeus as an interruption to His ministry, but rather the object of His ministry.**
- **Your plans are never more important than people.**
- God has placed people all around you and called you to be a part of their lives. Look for the opportunities you have to make a difference.
  - Include the outcast.
  - Invite the ignored.
  - Love the people around you because that is what God has called you to do.
- We aren't just called to go to church; we are called to grow the Church. It's crucial that you understand your calling and live out your calling. There is a huge difference in intention and action.

**THREE: Don't hesitate.**

- Be urgent. Jesus knew that His goal was to go straight to Zacchaeus. He didn't send His disciples. He didn't hesitate; He just went out and found him.
- A lack of urgency is hurting people.
  - Someday, I will invite them to church.
  - Someday, I will start talking about it with my family.
  - Someday, I will share the gospel.
  - Someday, I will share my story.
  - Someday, I will make a difference.
- **Don't hesitate to reach out and invite a new character into your story when God prompts you to.**

**Conclusion: How do we talk to people about Jesus?**

- Just start with your story.
  - People connect to stories.
  - People engage with stories.
  - Jesus spent most of His ministry telling stories.
  - Tell people the story of what Jesus has done in your life.
- The message is not "come to church." It's that people need to come to Jesus.
- Relationships are the best catalyst for revival.
- You can only encourage life-change like that in the context of a relationship.
- So, what is your story?
  - Your stress becomes your story.
  - Your scars become your story.
  - Your struggles become your story.
  - Your trials become your triumph.
  - Your failures can point people to the Father.

- You need to share the story of Jesus with people!
- **Connect with people. Listen to their story. Tell them your story.** Point people to Jesus.

**TRUTH: Use your story to point people to the Savior so your story will bring God glory.**