



BAPTIST CHURCH

**Gospel Conversations 3”**  
**Luke 19:1-10**

**Cary First exists to demonstrate the love and share the good news about Jesus everyday, everywhere, with everyone.**

**If Cary First is going to accomplish our purpose and impact lostness in our town we must “Do More!”**

**Lostness**— Refers to a person who is far from God. Anyone that does not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ is spiritually dead, separated from God, does not have the hope of eternal life and is destined for ruin, destruction and death.

The “**Do More Challenge**” is a compelling task calling people to utilize their uniqueness, gifts, abilities, and resources to advance God’s Kingdom on the earth.

The “**Do More Challenge**” is a challenge to:

**Dream More**

**Pray More**

**Read More**

**Serve More**

**Give More**

**Connect More**

**Have More Gospel Conversations**

Today we are continuing examine **Luke 19:1-10** and the principles that lead to Gospel Conversations.

**A Gospel Conversation is**— the act of engaging people in casual conversations that lead to sharing the “Good News” of Jesus on some level.

Gospel Conversations are extremely important because “Lostness” is a problem:

**Lostness is Everyones Problem**

**Lostness is an Explosive Problem**

**Lostness is an Eternal Problem**

The story of Zacchaeus found in **Luke 19:1-10** is one of the most important passages of Scripture in the New Testament regarding evangelism or “Gospel Conversations.”

**As Jesus was passing through Jericho He demonstrated five principles that lead to Gospel Conversations.**

“**Gospel Conversations**” become a priority in our life and in our church when we are:

### **1. Intentional**

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.” CSB

**Gospel Conversations happen when we seek after those who are seeking— those who are searching for answers.**

### **2. Redemptive vv.7-9**

“All who saw it began to complain, “He’s gone to stay with a sinful man.”  
8 But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, I’ll give half of my possessions to the poor, Lord. And if I have extorted anything from anyone, I’ll pay back four times as much.”  
9 “Today salvation has come to this house,” Jesus told him, “because he too is a son of Abraham.”CSB

Jesus had a **Redemptive Spirit**— however, many of the Jews there that day had a **Spirit of Rejection**.

“**Gospel Conversations**” become a priority in our life and in our church when we are:

**3. Relational**

**4. Attractive**

**5. Urgent**

## Scripture

“He entered Jericho and was passing through.

2 There was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.

3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but he was not able because of the crowd, since he was a short man.

4 So running ahead, he climbed up a sycamore tree to see Jesus, since he was about to pass that way.

5 When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down because today it is necessary for me to stay at your house.”

6 So he quickly came down and welcomed him joyfully.

7 All who saw it began to complain, “He’s gone to stay with a sinful man.”

8 But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, I’ll give half of my possessions to the poor, Lord. And if I have extorted anything from anyone, I’ll pay back four times as much.”

9 “Today salvation has come to this house,” Jesus told him, “because he too is a son of Abraham.

10 For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost.” CSB

**Quote of the Day:** “The church that becomes focused upon maintaining itself instead of the gospel becomes a dead branch of the living vine... “ — Thomas C. Oden

**“Gospel Conversations”** become a priority in our life and in our church when we are:

### **Relational vv.5-6**

When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down because today it is necessary for me to stay at your house.” 6 So he quickly came down and welcomed him joyfully

**Relational means**— the way in which one person reacts or behaves toward another person.

Jesus was highly relational because He loved and cared for people.

**Jesus did four things that allowed Him to interact with Zacchaeus:**

**Jesus looked for people who were searching for more**

**Zacchaeus was looking for more**— People who are looking for more start looking for real answers. Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus

**He was wealthy but he was looking for more.**

**He was powerful but he was looking for more.**

**He had authority but he was looking for more.**

**He was influential but he was looking for more.**

**He heard about Jesus and he was seeking to know more.**

**Jesus saw people who were searching for more**

We cannot see what we are not looking for. **Where’s Waldo?**

**Jesus spoke to people who were searching for more**

## Jesus spent time with people who were searching for more

### Jesus spent time with Zacchaeus where Zacchaeus was most comfortable.

The most effective Gospel Conversations often times do not happen inside the church building— The most effective Gospel Conversations happen where we live, work, play and socialize.

\$2 bill story of a man in the City BBQ parking lot who was looking at my green jeep and then wanted to know about the jeep and the license plate “I have 2’s.

After I told him about the jeep we talked about the license plate.

He was on a journey traveling to every state in America. He was passing through North Carolina and had stopped to eat at City BBQ . . .

“**Gospel Conversations**” become a priority in our life and in our church when we are:

### Attractive vv.2-4

There was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. 3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but he was not able because of the crowd, since he was a short man. 4 So running ahead, he climbed up a sycamore tree to see Jesus, since he was about to pass that way.

Attractive in this context means having the ability to attract and hold the interest and attention of someone.

Zacchaeus was attracted to Jesus because of His:

### Message

Jesus didn’t blink and He did not stutter. Jesus clearly proclaimed the truth to a world that was lost and dying.

Jesus understood who he was talking to and had the ability to connect with them.

Jesus told stories and used examples that made a connection with the people he was speaking to.

Matthew, three-year-old son of Stuart Cooke, was eating an apple in the back seat of the car when he asked this question, "Daddy, why is my apple turning brown?" Matthew's dad explained, "Your apple turned brown because after you ate the skin off, the meat of the apple came into contact with the air, which caused it to oxidize, thus changing its molecular structure and turning it into a different color." There was a long silence. **Then Matthew asked, "Daddy, are you talking to me?"** "We may have the "correct" answers for people asking about spiritual truth, but such truth is only of value when it is understandable to them. Citation: Reader's Digest, Dec. 1988, p. 93.

Zacchaeus was attracted to Jesus because of His:

### **Ministry**

Jesus was a humble servant who cared for everyone— poor, sick, diseased, demon possessed, the wicked and sinful.

Zacchaeus was attracted to Jesus because of His:

### **Miracles**

Jesus performed many miracles. He made water into wine, He healed the sick, the blind, the deaf, He fed 5,000 plus with five small loaves and two fish, He cast out demons, He raised Lazarus from the dead and more.

The greatest miracle I have seen is me!

God took a wretch, a worm, a sinful creature and transformed me by His Mercy and Grace.

I am not the person I used to be because of His miraculous power to save me from the curse of my sin.

How we live our lives as followers of Christ matters— people will see Jesus in us or not.

**Matthew 5:16** “let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” CSB

“**Gospel Conversations**” become a priority in our life and in our church when we are:

### **Urgent v.1**

He entered Jericho and was passing through.

Jesus was passing through Jericho for the last time. Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem where He would soon be crucified for the sins of the world.

**He was not coming back.**

We are quickly passing through this life moving to a real eternity.

Moses said in **Psalms 90:12** “Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts.” CSB