**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr. February 2, 2020**

**You Are Not Your Past**

Luke 19:1-9

**Key Truth:** Personal encounters with Jesus changes people.

**How The People Saw Zacchaeus:**

1. The crowd saw Zacchaeus as worthless and not worthy

 of the Jesus presence.

**How Jesus Saw Zacchaeus:**

1. Jesus came to redeem people just like Zacchaeus.

2. Jesus saw Zacchaeus’ heart was ripe for the gospel.

3. Jesus knew what Zacchaeus would become through His

 transformative power of love.

**What We Learn:**

1. Because we have been redeemed, we shouldn’t allow

 others to hold us hostage to our past.

2. Salvation is not only vertical, but horizontal.

 A. Because we have been made right with God, we

 should seek to be right with others as well.

 B. The crowd benefited from the salvific experience that

 Zacchaeus experienced.

3. Jesus not only saves our soul, but He changes our

 affections.

 A. Zacchaeus went from being known as a man of

 greed to being known as a person of generosity.

4. When we seek to truly see Jesus Christ for who He is, we

 will never be disappointed.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Embrace your new identity in Jesus Christ and don’t allow your past to stop you from fulfilling your destiny.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

For those of us who are Christians, our conversion is the biggest change that has taken place in our lives. What are some of the ways you were changed when you met Christ?

Read ACTS 9:26-31: How did the disciples respond when Saul attempted to join them in Jerusalem? Why do you think they responded that way? What can we learn from Saul’s story? (See ACTS 9:1-19)

Read Luke 18:18-30: How was Jesus encounter with this man different from Zacchaeus?

What surprises you about the decisions Zacchaeus made concerning his money?

Zacchaeus’s response to Jesus in verse 8 was about more than just money. What greater truths did his actions reveal?

What do these decisions say about his view of Jesus? About the change that Jesus brought to his life?

Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17: What would you say to people who believe God’s grace can’t provide forgiveness for their sins? Do you ever feel that way yourself?