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| Slide | **Sermon** |
| 1 | Title slide Sin, Sycamore and Salvation Luke 19:1-10 |
| 2 | Intro:  How often have you heard this story?  From your youngest days of Sunday School   * Story of a rich man meeting as itinerant preacher * Story of a suspicious church with watchful eyes * Story of the unexpected and unlikely * Story of the opportunity and salvation   But for me it’s a story of sharp contrasts!  Jesus often used contrast to teach – that is what he does here! |
| 3 | I. Jericho  1984 trip – coming from Jordan across desert, down the wadi and suddenly view Jericho   * Jericho – a virtual Eden on the Jordan river * Writers of the books of Joshua, Kings and Chronicles   + Wealth   + City of Palms   + Wonderful balsam groves * Josephus – “divine region – fullest in all Palestine” * Mark Anthony was said to have offered Jericho as a gift to Cleopatra * In Jesus’ day it was a thriving trade city – north, south, east and west trade routes met in Jericho. * Therefore, a cosmopolitan area, much activity and lots of money changed hands. * Yes – Water, vegetation and trade made Jericho a bustling place of activity. |
| 4 | Jericho was no Eden for him!   * Lonely and isolated * Wilderness in sea of people * His very work and money cut him off from his people and heritage, had no place of worship * People judged him hard – a publican * Same class as cut throats and robbers, adulterers and brothelkeepers, informers and traders. * Clean cut off from his roots.   Somewhere along life's way, Zaccheus chose a job that would give him the assurance of money – as the most important thing in life. But in doing so, chose a life of the living dead.  Not only was Zacheus at odds with his people in the Eden of Jericho, he must have been at odds with himself! |
| 5 | This is shown by a 2nd contrast – Zacchaeus’ life with his name.  Ironic that his name was Zacchaeus. Means The Pure One, The Righteous One, The Honest one – yet he was chief among sinners.  His very name symbolized the contrast of the life he chose to live with the life he could have chosen. |
| 6 | Names are important –  Not just a label or else we could just use our SS #.  Story of Thomas Wade and Riley Brittain – give roots and traditions.  Names can tell about families, heritage – sometimes help determine how people develop and grow. They can call a person to be more than they are.  Zacchaeus by his choices certainly did not followed the calling of his name. His Name and Life were in sharp contrast. |
| 7 | Names are important- just thought about these 3 – add if you wish and whatever comments or omit. |
| 8 | Last contrast and the contrast that reverses Zacchaeus’ fortunes  Reaction to Jesus   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Religious Leaders and Crowd | Zacchaeus | | Murmurings, complaints, gossip leaped forth like fanned flames of a fire!  Who does he think he is?  Why would he eat with a Roman Agent?  He’s not setting a good example associating with the likes of him!  Amazed but suspicious  Eventually sought to kill Jesus!  Chose Death! | Joy  Laughter  Confessions  New Choice of life  Gives resources:  Half to poor  Repaid defrauded 4-fold  Restores relationships  Chose Life! |   In Contrast – Paints picture of Religious leaders continually making the wrong decisions and yet it is Zacchaeus is the unexpected one who choses life! |
| 9 | This choice is reminiscent of an earlier time in Israel’s history.  As Israel settled the Promised Land having entered it via Jericho – Joshua gathered the people together and gave them a choice.  Choose life – by following God’s commandments, following God's ways  Or  Choose death – by disobedience and refusing to listen to God. |
| 10 | The long-term welfare of the nation depended on their making this choice. Continues later – Jesus – enters Jericho from Gentile territory and with his very presence offers people the choice of life or death. Religious leaders and part of the crowd chose death.  Zacchaeus embraced Jesus and chose life!  Zacchaeus gives evidence of his changed heart – Half to poor and 4-fold restoration of the defrauded. |
| 11 | Now – 2000 years later – right here in this sanctuary and in your own home  Jesus comes to us again, perhaps through mr sd pastor, or friend you have or some circumstance. Jesus comes to us with always the same choice – Are we to choose life or death?  It’s a once for all choice – Do we receive Jesus as Savior and Lord?  Yet it is a daily choice too! Will the things I do and say lead to life, or will they lead to death?   * Will we continue to nurse that grudge and thus continue to destroy the relationship? * Refrain – Choice of Life or Death * Will we take time to sit down to teach our children and grandchildren to read and love learning? * Refrain- Choice of Life or Death * Will we continue to smoke, or overeat or neglect exercise, etc. etc.? * Refrain - Choice of Life or Death * Will we take the time to really care about another’s disappointment – to love them through it? * Refrain - Choice of Life or Death * Will we choose to put off our prayer time to watch 30 more minutes of TV? * Refrain - Choice of Life or Death * Will we choose to share our joy and thanksgiving with those around us? * Refrain - Choice of Life or Death * Will we choose to give our resources so others and ourselves might live? * Refrain - Choice of Life or Death |
| 12 | Jesus comes to bring life!  But we must make the choices that lead to life and health and sharing!  Prayer:  O Lord Give us the strength and wisdom to choose life each and every day!  Amen. |

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