

*Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
*October 30, 2022*

Once again we see Jesus being the classic minister. Jesus knew full well what the local townspeople thought about tax collectors and knew that his actions would provoke a tremendous amount of controversy. He wanted them to love the sinner and hate the sin, but not hate the sinner as well as the sin. He chose to show them that by having dinner with Zacchaeus he was open to healing a person's heart no matter what his station in life.

Zacchaeus knew that the people thought that he was a crook as most tax collectors were in those days (Luke 5:27- 32). Zacchaeus was wealthy but not happy. He probably was very lonely because he had chosen a way that made him an outcast. He no doubt had heard of Jesus and his love for outcasts like tax collectors and sinners like himself, and wondered if he had any "good news" for him. Despised and hated by the local town people, Zacchaeus was reaching out for the love and acceptance of God. One has to remember that Zacchaeus was small in stature and he took a great risk to be seen alone in public. He could not see over the crowd so he finally found a tree that he could climb and see Jesus as he walked by.

Can you imagine the thrill that went through Zacchaeus when he heard Jesus' invitation. He literally jumped out of the tree in joy and shock and proclaimed to the community that he was a changed man. He knew that Jesus was risking the rejection of the crowd by saying that he wanted to stay at the home of a known sinner. Jesus does that today with you and me. He tells us that he wants to stay in our house, which means in our hearts. Zacchaeus then made a decision; he decided to love, because he had experienced the incredible gift of God's love. Because of this love he then decided to give half of his goods to the poor. In his restitution he went far beyond what the law required. Only if robbery was a pre-meditated violent act of destruction was a fourfold giving back necessary (Exodus 22:1).

Zacchaeus showed that he was a changed man by his actions not just his words. Zacchaeus was a man who had repented because of love not force. A man or woman who repents, changes completely. Repentance is not only saying "I am sorry." Zacchaeus' testimony would have been completely worthless if it was not backed up by deeds. We should reflect on today's story and see where, in our lives, repentance is needed.

Like Zacchaeus, we need to have Jesus reside in our hearts in order to love and be loved (John 15:12). This passage ends with Jesus telling us that he came to search out and save the lost. Zacchaeus was a Jew, a child of Abraham, and the Lord came to him and brought him back into the kingdom. We have that same loving God who is always ready to come to our "house" and bring us home, too.

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## 常年期第三十一主日 (10/30/2022)

- 摘自 John J. Gilchrist 蒙席 1998 年案卷

再一次我们看到耶稣是一位经典的牧人。耶稣完全知道当地镇上的居民对税吏的不屑，也深知祂接下来的举动会引发一轮大地震。祂想要人们爱罪人，但憎恨他们所犯的罪，而不是对罪人与他们的罪一同恼恨。祂选择向公众展示祂要住在匝凯家，与他一道进食，以此开启对一个人属灵生命的治愈途径，且不论这人的生命处在什么样的状态中。

匝凯知道人们把他跟其他税吏看成骗子，他虽富有但并不快乐。他也可能很孤独，因为他选择的生存之道让他成为社会的弃儿。毫无疑问他听说了耶稣，并听到祂如何爱被社会抛弃的人及像他这样的税吏和罪人，他在琢磨他是否能在耶稣那里得到涉及到他的“好消息”。虽然遭到当地人的唾弃，匝凯还是怀着渴望爱和接纳天主的心跑了出去。大家要记得匝凯是一个矮小的人，一个人出现在公众面前还是很冒险的。因为个子矮，在人群后面看不到耶稣，匝凯找到一棵树，爬了上去，正巧耶稣路过。

你能想像得出来当匝凯听到耶稣邀请他时那激动的心情吗？他在惊喜中跳下树，当众宣布他是一个悔改的人。他知道当耶稣宣布祂要住在他这个税吏罪人的家里时，是冒着被民众拒绝的巨大风险的。耶稣对匝凯所做的也是对今天的你我所做的。祂说祂想与我们同住，意思是居住在我们的心里。由于经历了上主所给的难以想像的爱，匝凯当机立断决定去爱，出于爱他要把他财产的一半分给穷人。他的（四倍）偿还也远远超过了当时法律的规定，即只有事先周密预谋暴力抢劫造成破坏的要四倍偿还。

匝凯向我们展示了他是以实际行动，而不是空洞语言悔改的人。匝凯的悔过来自爱，而不是强迫。悔改可使人完全彻底地改变。改过不光是一句话：“对不起”。如果匝凯没有他的实际行动支持，他悔改的见证毫无意义。我们应该反省今天的经文，看看在我们的生活中，哪里需要悔改。

像匝凯那样，我们需要耶稣居住在我们的心里，让我们有能力去爱和被爱。这段经文以耶稣的话做结束：他来是寻找和拯救迷失的人。匝凯是犹太人，亚巴郎后裔，上主要把他带回上主的国。我们和匝凯属同一个慈爱的天主，天父要住在我们的“家”，把我们带回祂的家。

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告示：11月1日是诸圣节，11月2日是追思已亡日。

诸圣节是纪念那些在世上时圣洁，在天上与主共享天主荣耀的圣人。

追思已亡日对我们天主教友是一个特别重要的日子。这一天我们要为那些已过世，但还没有到达天国与天主在一起的人祈祷。