



**Luke**  
**19:1-7**  
New International Version  
1984 (NIV1984)

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup>A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. <sup>3</sup>He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd.<sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

<sup>5</sup>When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." <sup>6</sup>So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

<sup>7</sup>All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."

Rather than ordinary, or "ho-hum," **the idea of this season is to support disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts and callings discerned during Easter Season** and commissioned on the Day of Pentecost.



## SERMON NOTES

**THE GOAL OF THIS CHURCH** is not to create a space for people to conveniently look upon God, but to enable Christians to embrace God everywhere and in everyone.

### **WORSHIP** wherever you are

LORD, our Lord,  
how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory  
in the heavens. — Psalm 8:1

Look for the majestic, mysterious, or moving in the ordinary

### **LOVE** whoever you're with.

When a lover becomes a servant, love becomes real.  
Tangible. Palpable. Heartfelt.

**Do** something every day that expresses your love.

**Give** something every day that makes you invested.

**Say** something every day that inspires and encourages.

### **PLAY** a little bit every day.

"You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation." — Plato

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones. Proverbs 17:22

# SACRED JOURNEY

## What was the purpose of the Temple?

In the Garden of Eden, God was fully present to Adam and Eve. The whole of creation was filled with the manifest presence of the Glory of God. In a certain sense, the whole of creation was a temple for God's presence, with his rule and reign extending over all he had made. However, with the entrance of sin, humanity experienced for the first time the absence of God. Sin is, at its root, a broken relationship. To put it another way, whenever we sin we are choosing – at that point – the absence of God in our lives. Sin might be understood as all those places in our lives and in our actions where we have said “NO” to God's presence and we have shut God out.

God's plan is to once again fill the world with his glory and presence. The temple (preceded by the tabernacle) was the provision God made for this return of his presence among his people. It had an outer court, and inner holy place where sacrifices were offered, and an inner sanctuary known as the holy of holies where the high priest would enter once a year.

The temple was the ongoing sign of the presence of God among his people, and provided the one place where God could be approached. Thus, the temple represented the presence of God and the absence of sin.

In the New Testament we learn not only that Jesus is the High Priest and the final sacrifice, but we also learn that he is the true Temple of God. In Jesus, the presence of God and the absence of sin are truly and finally found. When Jesus died upon the cross, one of the often neglected details is that at the moment of his death the heavy curtain which separated the holy of holies from the holy places was torn in two from the top down. It was the symbolic demonstration that the presence of God was not longer limited to one place, but was now, in Christ, made available to the whole world.

Indeed, wherever two or more are gathered in his name, the presence of God is there! God is now present with his people wherever they gather in the world

“Life is filled with unanswered questions, but it is the courage to seek those answers that continues to give meaning to life. You can spend your life wallowing in despair, wondering why you were the one who was led towards the road strewn with pain, or you can be grateful that you are strong enough to survive it.” — J.D. Stroube, *Caged by Damnation*

**We can all talk about loving our country, loving our church, loving our kids. But love that's real is love that's demonstrated. Love as a concept is just that... a concept. Just like peace. Synergy. Harmony. Euphoria. All concepts.**

**When a lover becomes a servant, love becomes real. Tangible. Palpable.**

Spiritual growth is more than a procedure; it's a wild search for God in the tangled jungle of our souls. --Michael Yaconelli

Blaise Pascal also observed, "We are never living, but hoping to live; and whilst we are always preparing to be happy, it is certain, we never shall be so, if we aspire to no other happiness than what can be enjoyed in this life."