

Come Close

Have you ever noticed how distance changes our perspective of something?















- ▶ **Our relationship with Jesus is the same. Many have a distorted view or understanding of God because for one reason or another we only observe or see Jesus from a distance.**

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- ▶ **Luke 19:1-10** Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. 2 There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. 3 He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. 5 When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today." 6 Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. 7 But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled. 8 Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!" 9 Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

Zacchaeus – At A Distance

- ▶ The sad truth is many people settle for that type of religion and Christianity. Observation without any interaction and connection.
 - ▶ When Jesus moves from distant rumor and stories about him!
 - ▶ The big theme of the Bible and heart of God is: *God loves you and wants to be close to you!*
 - ▶ He's trying to get "into" a relationship and conversation with you.
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▶ On the Cross between two criminals

- **Luke 23:39–43** One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, "So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!" 40 But the other criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? 41 We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man hasn't done anything wrong." 42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." 43 And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise." NLT

- **It didn't stop there!**

- ▶ **Matthew 27:50-52** Then Jesus shouted out again, and he released his spirit. 51 At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, rocks split apart,
- ▶ **Think about it - AT THAT MOMENT!**
- ▶ **Romans 8:35** Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love?
- ▶ **Romans 8:38-39** And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- ▶ **Ephesians 2:13** But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.
- ▶ **It's in and through Jesus that we now come close to God!!**
- ▶ The sad reality is that we can settle for distance when Jesus paid everything to bring us close.
- ▶ **Why do we often stay at a distance from God?**
- ▶ 1. How we see ourselves often keeps us at a distance.
- ▶ **Sin separates us but doesn't change his heart towards us.**

2. How we see Jesus can keep us at a distance from Him.

- **Luke 15:11-32**
 - ▶ **How you see Jesus will affect what you receive from Jesus.**
 - ▶ **Perceptions, especially those at distance, can deter us from the real heart of Our Heavenly Father!**
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- ▶ **Revelation 3:20 "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.**

 - ▶ **Come close to God, and God will come close to you. (James 4:8 NLT)**
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