

一个诈骗者得救

Salvation for a Swindler

Zacchaeus, the man in our story, was quite an infamous character, especially when contrasted with the many devoutly religious figures who walked the streets of Jericho, “the city of priests.”

He was the wealthy head of a large office of government tax collectors, and to the Jews, tax collectors were the absolute lowest of the low. Well known for being cheaters, extortionists, and robbers of the poor, these men were also considered as traitors to their brethren, since, though they themselves were Jews, they worked for the much-hated government of Rome.

Zacchaeus was a man with governmental authority to bleed from the people as much tribute as possible, and anything he could gouge from them above that went straight into his own pocket.

我们故事的主人翁撒该，是一位声名不佳的人物，特别是和那些走在“祭司之城”耶利哥街上的许多虔诚的宗教人士相比之下，更是如此。

他是一个富有的税吏官，掌管许多负责为政府收税的税吏们。对犹太人来说，这些税吏们是最下等的人，只可与一般的娼妓相题并论。这些人也是人所皆知的骗子、敲诈者和剥削穷苦人的人。他们也被视为犹太人同胞中的背叛者，因他们本身虽是犹太人，却为那深被犹太人憎恨的罗马政府效劳。

撒该这个人，拥有政府给他的权力，可向人们榨取尽多的税款，而任何超过罗马政府要求的税金之额外钱财，他都可以尽入私囊。

But one day something happened that completely changed all this for Zacchaeus. He had already heard all about Jesus and the many miracles which He'd performed, yet even more fascinating was the fact that Jesus was known to be a friend of tax collectors and sinners. In fact, one of Jesus' Own disciples, Matthew, had one time been a tax collector!

“Would Jesus be my friend too?” Zacchaeus wondered. He had no real friends and more recently he'd begun to feel quite dissatisfied. He'd begun to realize that it took much more than wealth to bring true satisfaction. After all, he had practically everything money could buy, but something was missing. — Exactly what, he wasn't sure.



但有一天，有件事发生了，而那完全改变了撒该。撒该早已听说有关耶稣的一切，和他所行的一切奇迹，然而更吸引他的是，耶稣也和他一样声名不佳，而且为众人所知，是税吏和“罪人”的朋友。事实上，耶稣本人的门徒之一马太，就曾经在拿撒勒当税吏呢！

撒该想：“难道耶稣也会愿意成为我的朋友吗？”

撒该没有任何真正的朋友，而最近他开始变得相当不满足。他开始苦恼地察觉到，财富并不能为他的生命带来真正的温馨和满足。毕竟，他可以说是已拥有金钱所能买到的每一样事物，然而他仍缺乏某样东西。他也不确定他所缺乏的到底是什么。

Then one day Jesus passed through Jericho. When Zacchaeus heard that He was in town, he dropped everything, closed up his office, and hurried off to see for himself.

A large crowd with Jesus in their midst, was already moving slowly down the road, but poor Zacchaeus was so short he couldn't see a thing.



Quickly he spotted a large sycamore tree up ahead of the crowd. As Jesus passed by, maybe he could see him from that tree. Completely forgetting about what people would think of him, Zacchaeus ran past the crowd and scurried up into the tree.

然后有一天，耶稣经过耶利哥城。当撒该听到他在城中这个消息时，他就立刻放下一切在办的事，结束他在事务所的工作，亲自赶着去见他。耶稣在一大群人中间，沿着路慢慢走

来，但可怜的撒该，他是那么矮小，以致他什么也看不见。

他机伶的看到在人群要经过的路上

有一棵大桑树。当耶稣经过之时，他或许能从树上看到他。撒该完全忘记了人们会对他有什么想法，他越过人群，赶忙爬到树上。

When Jesus finally reached the tree where Zacchaeus was, all of a sudden He turned and looked up. Drawing near and looking straight up at Zacchaeus, Jesus called, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down. I must stay at your house today!"

"Wha ... what did He say?" Zacchaeus was shocked! "He called me by my name! He wants to stay at my house?" As Zacchaeus slid down from the tree, it was hard to believe that there hadn't been some sort of mistake. How could Jesus have known his name? But as soon as he realized that Jesus was serious, he answered, "Why, this is an honor! Please do come to my house! You're so very welcome!" And Zacchaeus joyfully escorted Jesus to his home.



当耶稣终于到达撒该处在的树那里时，他突然转身抬头向树上搜索性地看着。耶稣走更近些，正面看着撒该，并对他呼唤：“撒该，快下来，我今天要住在你家里！”

“他...他说什么？”撒该大吃一惊，心想：“他竟叫出我的名字！他想要住在我的家里？”当撒该从树上滑下来时，他仍然很难相信这是真实的，耶稣一定是搞错了。耶稣怎么会知道他的名字？但当他真的领悟到耶稣是认真时，他回答说：“当然当然，这是我无上的荣幸！请一定要到我家来！我非常非常欢迎您来！”然后撒该就欢欢喜喜的接待耶稣到他家里去了。

In that one moving meeting with Jesus, Zacchaeus had found the answer! Now wealth and possessions were not important. Excitedly, Zacchaeus declared, "Jesus, right here and now I want You to know that I've made up my mind! I am going to give to the poor one half of all that I own! And to make amends for those whom I have cheated or taken advantage of, I promise to restore unto them four times more than I took from them!" What an amazing commitment, considering that that sum must have been very large!

This was the beginning of a new life for Zacchaeus! No longer would he be indifferent to the people and the World around him. Now, he was going to take a personal interest in helping the needy.

在与耶稣有了一次感人的会面之后，撒该找到了他长久以来所寻找的答案。对他来说，钱财和所有的财物都不再是最重要的。撒该兴奋的宣布：“耶稣，我想要您现在就我知道，我已打定主意要改变。我要把我一切所拥有的一半送给穷人！为了要向我欺诈了或占了便宜的人赔偿，我答应我将偿还他们我向他们所诈取的四倍多的财物。”这是一个多么惊人的许诺，因他答应要偿还的数目一定相当庞大呢！

这是撒该全新生命的开始。他不再对在他四周的世界漠不关心。现在他要用自己的财富，去帮助需要被帮助的人，来表现出他个人的关心。



Zacchaeus found that giving brought happiness and satisfaction! He was learning the truth of Jesus' Words: "Give and it will be given you."

撒该发现给与他人会带来快乐和满足。他学习体会到耶稣话语中的真理：“你们要给人，就必有给你们的。”

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