

**A Father's Strength**  
*The Strength of Capitalization*  
By Steve Viars

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**Bible Text:** Luke 19:1-27  
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Recently I have been having a problem to which others my same age can probably relate. And it often happens later in the evening when things are winding down and I am sitting in my leather chair next to our fireplace reading the paper. It has been my habit for a long time and I have never really been particularly concerned about the lighting in the room or all that sort of thing, just sit down and read the paper. The problem actually started when I was trying to read the text on the comics, which, of course, is the newspaper's fault. They reduced them, you know, in size. And I would find myself. I knew there was a problem when I started kind of twisting the text of the comic in the light in order to read it. And then I found myself trying to hold it further and further away. But I realized my arms are only so long and that solution is not going to work long term.

So I scheduled an appointment with Dr. Bolton from our church who is an ophthalmologist and I just wanted to be sure that there wasn't anything serious going on. And she explained, sat back, as she explained that I have pressed biopia. That is exactly what she told me which is a terribly serious condition that can only be treated with massive doses of banana cream pie and ministered morning, new and night.

Come to think of it, I am not sure it was Dr. Bolton who said that, but there was one person in the room who said that and I trust his thoughts on topics like these.

The bottom line is I am getting old. That is it. I am getting old. And it was interesting. I actually had that appointment on the very same afternoon that our daughter Bethany was in labor giving birth to our first grandchild up in Minneapolis. So grandpa can't see is, you know, the summer event tale.

Anyway, Dr. Bolton was very thorough in her exam which I really appreciated and at one point she had me look through a device and then read the letters on the eye chart on the wall. And I could read the first couple of lines, but then everything else started getting fuzzy. You have probably taken a test like that. And then she just clicked through a couple of lenses on the machine and it was amazing how those letters came into focus. She didn't do anything to my eyes. She didn't do anything to the chart, but it was all about the lens through which I was looking. And when she finished, by the way, she assured me there wasn't anything serious going on and I was kind of prepared for the eye

glasses contacts conversation. And when said to me is, “You know, you really don’t need glasses yet. Why don’t you go to Walmart and get some of those inexpensive reading glasses off the rack?”

And so I said, “Walmart?”

And in clear proof that the fact that I am cheap comes out even when I am not trying to be, her assistant chimed in then, by saying, “Well, if you don’t want to do that, you could go to the dollar store next door,” as if to say, “If Walmart is more than you care to invest in your eyewear right now, there is the dollar store for you.”

Pretty sad. Well, here is the point. It was all about the lens. That is the point. No change to the chart. No change to my eyes, but the lens through which I was looking made all the difference in the world.

Now let me ask you think about this fall. This is the Sunday after Labor Day. We are entering a four month period that many of us would say is one of our favorite times of the year. But are you comfortable with the clarity with which you are viewing the various people and situations you are facing right now and you are likely to face in the days ahead? Or is there anything confusing to you? Is there anything troubling to you? Is there anything out of focus? Do you find yourself holding that person or holding that episode, holding that possibility the way I have been holding the newspaper, back and forth and back and forth, trying to make it clear and understandable?

Well, if that is the case, we have a passage of Scripture that could really help us today. I want to invite you to open your Bible to Luke chapter 19. That is on page 63 of the back section of the Bible under the chair in front of you if you need that this morning.

Our theme this year is building core strength. And obviously we cannot do that unless we are seeing life clearly. I talked to you about this verse a number of times know, Psalm 138 verse three.

“On the day I called, You answered me; You made me bold with strength in my soul.”<sup>1</sup>

In order to get there, in order to make progress in that endeavor, we have to be able to see life clearly, making me bold with strength in my soul, developing core strength. And we have been talking about that especially from three particular areas of emphasis this year. One, just shoring up foundational areas in our walk with Christ and our church ministries that comprise the basis of godliness and effective community service. God has given us all sorts of opportunities right now with things happening all around the church. And we are evaluating our own selves, kind of a personal growth audit. And then we are evaluating the fundamentals that make us a church and asking ourselves, is there anything out of focus? Do we need to shore anything up to be sure we are not leaving opportunities on the table because we have not been majoring on the majors around here either as

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<sup>1</sup> Psalm 138:3.

persons or as a church and developing core strength? In order to get that done, you have to be able to see clearly.

Or this, planning and praying for the construction of Faith West and the successful launch of a cluster of new ministries over there. Well, in order to get that done—I mean, think about it. Just a year from now if Christ carries his coming the plan is that we will have launched a number of new ministries over there on 1920 Northwestern. Well, in order to get that done well we are going to have to see clearly, huh?

You better believe that. We are going to have to be strong. And then this. Preparing for the next round of ministry dreaming as we embark on a new strategic planning process in 2013. And please tell me when you are not involved in something where you have to actually think that you are thinking about strategically planning for our church. Is that the way it is? So you are mowing your grass. That doesn't take any brains. So you are praying and asking the Lord: What could our church do next? Or when you are driving your car, surely that doesn't take any brains, and so you are—when you are not texting—you are praying and asking, right? You know what I mean. That didn't come out just right. But what I am saying is I hope you are already thinking about that important endeavor of next year.

Well, would you agree with me? All of that requires clear vision. We have to be able, for example, to see God clearly, who he is according to his Word and to know him personally and to know him well. And then we have to see ourselves clearly to have a biblical understanding of even fundamental questions like: Why am I here and where am I going and what is my purpose for existence? How am I?

And then we have to look at people and our situation through the lens of Scripture to have a biblical world and life view that informs and influences everything within our gaze.

I would encourage you to consider doing a study in your Bible on the word eye or eyes. There is a number of fascinating passages in Scripture about having a clear gaze, being sure that you are looking at life clearly. Here is a couple of examples. One, on parenting. Deuteronomy 6:6-9.

These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.<sup>2</sup>

See, there is the family that is seeing life clearly. That is why literally hundreds and hundreds of parents have done everything in their power to have their children in Sunday school today. Why? Because they want their kids to learn how to see life through the

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<sup>2</sup> Deuteronomy 6:6-9.

lens of Scripture. And you are going to do everything you can to take that little path in our program that you received that explains to you what your children are getting in Sunday school. Why? Because you are going to take some time this week to go over that with them, because you understand fundamentally it is not the church's job to teach the Bible to your child, right? Can I get an uh-huh on that? It is whose job? Oh, that is why we have public school teachers? No, that is the parent's job to do that first and foremost. But you can have other people assist you, but it is your job to give your children a biblical vision of life, having their eyes where they need to be.

Or verses like these, Psalm 119:18.

“Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Your law.”<sup>3</sup>

That would be a great thing to pray every Lord's Day. It would be a great thing to pray every time before you open your Bible in your personal Bible time, “Open my eyes, Lord.”

Or this. We surely need this in this culture, Psalm 119:37:

“Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity, And revive me in Your ways.”<sup>4</sup>

Or this.

“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to counsel.”<sup>5</sup>

Who brings other people around us who aren't going to tell us what we want to hear, but are going to tell us what we need to hear to correct our gaze even though that is hard.

Or this, Proverbs 23:26.

“Give me your heart, my son...”<sup>6</sup>

You notice the emphasis also on the heart, the inner man, developing core strength.

“Give me your heart, my son, And let your eyes delight in my ways.”<sup>7</sup>

Now question that part of our success this fall is looking at these next four months through God's corrective lens. Let's let this passage of Scripture help us with that, huh? Luke chapter 19 beginning in verse one.

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<sup>3</sup> Psalm 119:18.

<sup>4</sup> Psalm 119:37.

<sup>5</sup> Proverbs 12:15.

<sup>6</sup> Proverbs 23:26.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man called by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and he was rich. Zacchaeus was trying to see who Jesus was, and was unable because of the crowd, for he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree in order to see Him, for He was about to pass through that way. When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house."

And he hurried and came down and received Him gladly. When they saw it, they all began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner."

Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much."

And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

While they were listening to these things, Jesus went on to tell a parable, because He was near Jerusalem, and they supposed that the kingdom of God was going to appear immediately. So He said, "A nobleman went to a distant country to receive a kingdom for himself, and then return. And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, 'Do business with this until I come back.' But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might know what business they had done. The first appeared, saying, 'Master, your mina has made ten minas more.' And he said to him, 'Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful in a very little thing, you are to be in authority over ten cities.' The second came, saying, 'Your mina, master, has made five minas.' And he said to him also, 'And you are to be over five cities.'

Another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I kept put away in a handkerchief; for I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down and reap what you did not sow.' He \*said to him, 'By your own words I will judge you, you worthless slave. Did you know that I am an exacting man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? 'Then why did you not put my money in the bank, and having come, I would have collected it with interest?'

Then he said to the bystanders, 'Take the mina away from him and give it to the one who has the ten minas.'

And they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas already.'

I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given, but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence."<sup>8</sup>

What a fascinating passage of Scripture. We are talking this morning about the strength of capitalization. I realize that word can be used in a lot of different ways. What I mean by that is making the most of the opportunities like this one with Zacchaeus, because we have a proper view of others and we have proper view of our selves and we have a proper view of the Lord. We will spend the rest of our time looking for three principles to help us use this fall in a way that honors the Lord. We want to see correctly. How do you do that?

Well, first of all, learn to seize opportunities by developing Christ like vision. Don't you love the story of Zacchaeus. And don't you love Jesus more every time you read an account like this? That is the kind of Savior I want. That is the kind of Savior we need. And that is the kind of Messiah we want to be like.

Let's break it down. Think about who Zacchaeus was. Well, for one thing he was a wicked man. The Bible is really clear. He was a tax collector. And I realize it is hard for us in this culture to get our arms around exactly what that would have meant. And every so often I will hear somebody likening this to a person who works for the IRS today. That is not even in the same league. You understand. Zacchaeus was a Jewish man and he was working for the Roman government to collect taxes from his own people who despised the domination of Rome. And the fact that they still had to finance Rome coupled with the cultural reality that the Romans we really didn't care how much extra their agents collected, as long as they received their fair share, that would have made Zacchaeus one very despised person. He was wicked, for sure, and everybody knew it.

He was also, the text says, a wealthy man. There is nothing wrong with that inherently, but based on his own admission later in the text, he had obtained his wealth by cheating other people. That is why he was so despised by his countrymen. He was also a powerful man. He wasn't just any old tax collector. He was a chief tax collector. So he taught other people under him to lie and to cheat and to steal with the full authority of the Roman government and he had profited handsomely from their labors as well. And when you compare that to the story that we studied last week about the rich young ruler, I mean, just think about that. If the rich young ruler, a righteous man in his own eyes, couldn't earn his own way to heaven, what hope would there be for somebody like Zacchaeus?

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<sup>8</sup> Luke 19:1-27.

And what reason would we have to believe that Zacchaeus would ever be interested in being related to the king? Well, here is why. Because he was also an empty man. See, all that wealth didn't satisfy because material things never do. It is like eating chocolate cake on an empty stomach.

I love this quote from commentator Ken Hughes who said Zacchaeus was drawn by the severe mercy of dissatisfaction. Let that sink into your heart and mind for a moment. Zacchaeus was being drawn by the severe mercy of dissatisfaction. The text says Zacchaeus was just trying to see who Jesus was. But he couldn't, because he was so short. So he climbs up in a sycamore... doesn't this want to make you want to break out in song? Yeah. Let's not.

But only the God of heaven could orchestrate is meeting, huh? Now understand that it wasn't just Zacchaeus who was looking. Because the text talks about others and the way that they viewed him. Understand. A contrast is being set up. No one questions the fact that the wee little man was a really big sinner. And you undoubtedly have people like this in your life and maybe you would say this morning that you are like Zacchaeus. But the point of the text is not everybody was viewing Zacchaeus in exactly the same way. See, to the crowd, Zacchaeus was somebody to gossip about and grumble about.

Are you picking up on that theme of seeing? That is what they saw. Let's just get it out there. If you and I go into this fall wearing the lens of self righteousness and look down on others and judge others and deem them unworthy of our love and our time and our attention, we are going to waste all sorts of opportunities in the next four months. We will be too busy talking about people to talk to them.

I mean, after all, what the crowd saw, the reason they were gossiping and the reason they were grumbling was because to them he was just a sinner. That is what they said about Christ.

"He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner."<sup>9</sup>

As if to say he should have come to my house and hung out with someone who isn't. Well, contrast that to the lens Jesus brought to the eye appointment. You can almost picture Zacchaeus' likeness being on the ophthalmologist's office wall where the eye exam chart normally is and you sit down and look through the machine and when it has the self righteousness lens in, all you see is Zacchaeus' sins and his failures and his shortcomings. And you find yourself criticizing and judging and separating and gossiping. Some of God's people have a PhD in that subject, you know? But then all of the sudden the lens is switched and everything comes into focus.

See, here is what Jesus saw. He saw this man as a divine appointment. He said, "I have to go to your house today." And when Jesus says, "I have to do that today," listen up. He was a divine appointment. He saw someone who was worth seeking. The Son of man has come. This is why I exist.

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<sup>9</sup> Luke 19:7.

The Son of Man has come to see, to find people just like you. Therefore, you are a marvelous candidate not for gossip, not for me looking down my nose at you. You are a marvelous candidate for redemption, to save that which is lost.

And I think it would be very wise for all of us to consider this morning whether we need some corrective work done to our vision. Can I just say it that way? Do you have any Zacchaeus' in your life? Think about that person right now or that group of persons or that category of persons, maybe people the culture has written off. And maybe even people who have written themselves off, someone who has been through divorce, maybe multiple times or an unwed mother or someone struggling with alcohol or drugs or someone who has broken the law or someone who is just mean or someone who steals or someone who takes the Lord's name in vain or someone who messed up really badly. The reason sometimes people like that in those conditions end up going to bars instead of churches is because churches can be very judgmental places to go. And I would ask you this morning regarding your view of the Zacchaeus' in your life is it more like the crowd or more like the Savior? That is really the question. And what about moving them from your view to your actions? Do you have a place in your heart for the Zacchaeus' of your life? Do you have a place in your schedule? Do you have a place in your ministry? Do you have a place in your home?

And don't you love the way that part of the story ended? Jesus' compassionate view resulted in Zacchaeus' amazing transformation. Is that good news or what? He repented, the Bible says, and he placed his faith in Christ and Jesus was able to say:

“Today salvation has come to this house.”<sup>10</sup>

And think again of all those Zacchaeus that you would know. Are any of them beyond the redemptive power of Christ? Do you really believe that this fall?

And, by the way, if you are here this morning without Christ and you would say, “Hey, I am Zacchaeus,” well, do you really believe there is anything you could put on the table about what you have done or not done that would cause Christ to conclude you are beyond hope? And if you have ever trusted Christ as Savior and Lord, why wouldn't you do that right now? This is the kind of Savior you ought to want and this is the kind of Savior you surely need. He wants to come to your house. How about today?

If you are a Christian, if you are a follower of Christ, but you have gotten off path, you have gotten to a bad place, why not return to him while you have the opportunity to do so? And maybe you just started attending this church and maybe you are trying us out. Maybe you have been here a long time and people don't know about your thing yet and you are afraid it might come out or you are afraid to acknowledge it or whatever. Here is our promise. And for Jesus and for anybody around here who has their head on even halfway straight, our response to you is we are not going to judge you and we are not going to look down on you and we are not going to view you through the lens of the

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<sup>10</sup> Luke 19:9.



sinful choices you made in days gone by, but through the lens of what you can become through the power and presence of Christ.

And if you would say, “Well, are you sure, pastor Viars, that I can even get to a better place? Is there any hope here?” Well, it happened in this story, didn’t it? I mean, he began making dramatic changes.

“Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, ‘Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.’”<sup>11</sup>

Some people in that town were in for an unexpected windfall, huh? Absolutely. But the point is obvious. Are you letting the Holy Spirit do his work in you heart right now? This isn’t some sort of a bedtime story to put you... it is not nappy time. Are you letting the Word of God do its work in your heart? It is all about how you view those the Lord has placed around you. Are they sinners to be judged and gossiped about and separated from or are they lost persons to be loved and reached out to and redeemed? And I believe that getting this issue right is going to have a dramatic impact on how much we accomplish this fall.

You know, every one of us is going to have to evaluate ourselves on this issue and let the Holy Spirit do his work of pointing out ways we need to get better in the way we relate to the Zacchaeus’ in our life.

I just want to say as a pastor, I want to say from my perspective this morning, I am very thankful for the many men and women from our church family who clearly want to live like Jesus in this particular area. I see evidence of that all over the place as folks are trying to aggressively look for ways to interact with those in our community who are being drawn to God through the severe mercy of dissatisfaction. And it is not from the perspective of, well, let’s go help some of those sinners and get a few notches on our ministerial belts. But it is from the profound understanding that we are all sinners and if we cross the line of becoming a follower of Christ, it is simply in response to his marvelous grace and that certainly doesn’t mean after we have come to Christ that we have completed our battle with sin. Anybody want to debate that point this morning?

And so when we encounter a Zacchaeus, it is not like, well, we have arrived and we are trying to pull your sad, sinful self across the line to us. But, instead, maybe we are a half step ahead in some ways because we know Christ, but let’s work on this journey of getting to a better place together.

If that is a church family’s heart cry toward ministry to our community and to our world, that is an evidence of clear vision, looking at life through the lens of our Savior’s love.

There are so many examples of that. I had someone send me this picture this week. It is a picture of Janelle Rosenberger. Janelle is a senior at {?} Central and she attends church

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<sup>11</sup> Luke 19:8.

here. She is on their cross country team and she and one of her friends pray together before the meet and they also ask other people from their team and the opposing teams to pray with them. And this was a picture from a public school were {?} Central had a tri-meet with Seeger and also Central Catholic. And these young ladies just asked if anybody would like to pray with them and there is what you get. That is exactly what we are talking about. That is people who are just using the opportunities that God has given them to be a bright light and then just trusting the Lord to work through whatever Zacchaeus might be present. But they had to do their part. And I commend... listen. That is a young person doing that. God bless them, huh? And God bless the young people who, if there is going to be some ridicule in that, fine. And I guess, I don't know, but I guess a young lady could say, "Well, you know, if I am living for Christ like that, maybe some of the boys won't like me." And smart young ladies would say, "If the boys don't like the fact that I love Jesus, then I don't love those boys."

See, that is just the whole thing. If they are going to want to be interested in me ever, they are going to have to be way interested in my Savior. Really smart for young people to look like that.

If you have not read the front page of the paper today, I want to encourage you to do that. It is a great article on the athletic program at Faith Christian. And I could not be happier about the way that whole story was told by students from our school. So Christ centered, so right on. In fact, that article actually went up on line last night. I was at an airport. I happened to click into that. I couldn't believe how well those young people did and those coaches did. That is exactly what we are talking about. We are not going to separate ourselves from the world. We are not going to hate the world. We are going to try to be a bright light in the world in which God has placed us. And then we will just trust him to work and draw Zacchaeus in whatever way he wants, exactly.

And when I see young people doing that, I get fired up.

I had an email recently from some folks who work with the mental health associations homeless shelter and the lunches that are provided there. Great loving folks who maybe the world has turned away from. We have started these community soccer leagues, 560 kids enrolled in community soccer out there. And it is not like we are all soccer. Our mission isn't promoting great soccer, but our mission is loving our neighbors, huh? And I am glad for people in this church who will do whatever is necessary in order to look at life through the lens of our Savior.

Now note this in the text. This is really important exegetically. While Jesus was saying these things and, see, while they were listening to that story or while they were listening to what happened to Zacchaeus, then he starts telling his parable about the minas. And the point of that parable is for you and me. We have got to be sure that we are investing what God has entrusted to us wisely. And this parable occurs in different places in the Bible in different ways.

Do you understand? Parables are like that. And so when they are told in different places, if you are telling parable, you can change it up. This particular is the parable of the mina. Let me make some observations about what we can see here. One. Jesus likened ministry to doing business. In fact, he said that in verse 13.

“And he called ten of his slaves, and gave them ten minas and said to them, ‘Do business with this until I come back.’”<sup>12</sup>

And then in verse 15.

“When he returned, after receiving the kingdom, he ordered that these slaves, to whom he had given the money, be called to him so that he might know what business they had done.”<sup>13</sup>

Now, I know I have said a lot. You cannot miss this exegetically. What is the logic of the text? Jesus has said, “There is going to be a period of delay.” Don’t think that he kingdom is coming right now. That is the age that we live in, the age of grace, the Church age. And how does all of this fit together logically? In the Church age you are going to have all sorts of opportunities to be around Zacchaeus. On purpose I am going to give you all sorts of opportunities to be around such individuals who don’t yet know me. And what you are going to be entrusted with is opportunities. You are going to be entrusted with time. You are going to be entrusted with the privilege of speaking, interacting. You are going to be entrusted with the gospel, biblical truth. You are going to be entrusted with resources. And you have to decide. Are you going to invest them wisely just like you would if you were doing business?

Now if you compare is to other parables that are similar to this, you know that sometimes Jesus gives the servants in the story different amounts of money, not here. Why they all get the same. Why? To emphasize this important truth. Much of what is entrusted to us is very similar. We are all more similar than we are different. Do you know that? We have the same number of hours in a day. We live in the same town. We interact with the same kind of people. We have the same Bible. We have the same gospel. the same food, the same climate. Her is the point. God entrusted that to you and are you going to invest it in a way that reaches Zacchaeus?

The fundamental difference is this. Faithfulness. Well done, good slave, because you have been faithful.

What did we sing about earlier? How many days do we live for God? Every day. Didn’t we say that over and over? Why do we sing songs like that? To remind us that there are opportunities to interact with Zacchaeus and to take whatever God has entrusted, whatever mina you got and your time, your influence, your ability to speak, et cetera, et cetera, to use whatever influence you have, whatever mina you have been entrusted, in

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<sup>12</sup> Luke 19:13.

<sup>13</sup> Luke 19:15.

order to make an impact in the people that God has placed around you. And the question before the house is: Are you going to be faithful?

Now don't do this. Don't say, "Well, but my thing is just a little thing." Never despise little things. If God has not entrusted you with much at this point in your life, be faithful with that and see what he does.

You could say, "Well, pastor Viars, I used to have more influence or I used to have more of something and I kind of squandered it."

It doesn't matter what you did in the past. The question is as you think about it fall are you going to live for God every day and are you going to invest what opportunities God has given you every day as an opportunity to see who he will draw to himself?

Well, if you say, "Well, I can't because of this and I can't because of this and..." Then that is why this is in the text. Beware of self deceptive excuses.

I was afraid of you because you were an exacting man, blah, blah, blah. And that might have sounded really good while he was just standing saying it in front of his mirror, but when he said that to the king it didn't come off very well, huh?

And the this. Be prepared for them marvelous beauty of more.

"I tell you that to everyone who has, more shall be given."<sup>14</sup>

And I hope you would say, you may not, but I hope you would say, "I want more," in the sense of I want more influence. I want more impact. I want my life to count for God.

If that is where you are heading, if that is the trajectory you are on, then seek to be faithful today.

It is interesting the way this text ends, kind of on a harsh note, but it proves this. Remember that all this says a lot about what you think of your King.

"But these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them in my presence."<sup>15</sup>

And when you choose to live for God every day, when you choose to look for opportunities to impact the Zacchaeus in your world, you are saying something about the fact that Jesus is your king.

That young girl from our church who goes to {?} Central. What was she saying by what she did? Jesus is my king. Read the paper today, the front page. It is fascinating. You

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<sup>14</sup> Luke 19:26.

<sup>15</sup> Luke 19:27.

have young people from this town saying unapologetically Jesus is my King. Is that what you are saying? Because your vision is clear.

You know, this thing about getting older, do you think it is highly likely that my eyesight is going to be getting better or worse over time, huh? Tell me how that goes, because I have never been there yet. Yeah. We just assume that your vision gets worse over time as you age. Do you realize the polar opposite can be true spiritually? It is possible as we get older and older and older for our vision to become better and better and better, clearer and clearer and clearer.

Let's pray to that end, shall we? Would you stand with me?