

## I Matter To God

IDENTITY: Making A Positive ID #2-7

Tim Gill - July 27, 2014

The world evaluates my value...

- ... by appearance.
- ... by affluence.
- ... by achievement.
- ... by approval.

He entered Jericho and was passing through. <sup>2</sup> And there was a man called by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and he was rich. <sup>3</sup> Zacchaeus was trying to see who Jesus was, and was unable because of the crowd, for he was small in stature. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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." <sup>6</sup> And he hurried and came down and received Him gladly. <sup>7</sup> When they saw it, they all began to grumble, saying, "He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." <sup>8</sup> 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>9</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." **Luke 19:1-10 (NIV)**

### 1. No matter how small I feel, Jesus notices me. (v.5a)

When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. **Luke 19:5 (NLT)**

- The greatest way to express love is by giving attention.

God never overlooks a single sparrow. And He pays even greater attention to you, down to the last detail- even numbering the hairs on your head! **Luke 12:6-7 (MSG)**

### 2. No matter who ignores me, Jesus knows me. (v.5)

- He calls Zacchaeus by name.

When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. **Luke 19:5 (NLT)**

- Zacchaeus means pure one.

Yet Jerusalem says, "The LORD has deserted us; the Lord has forgotten us." <sup>15</sup> "Never! Can a mother forget her nursing child? Can she feel no love for a child she has borne? But even if that were possible, I would not forget you! <sup>16</sup> See, I have written your name on my hand. **Isaiah 49:14-16 (NLT)**

### 3. No matter what I've done, Jesus wants me. (v.5)

When Jesus got there, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down! I want to stay with you today." **Luke 19:5 (CEV)**

- God is interested in changing me not condemning me.

### 4. No matter what others say, Jesus affirms me. (v.7-9)

But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled. **Luke 19:7 (NLT)**

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!" <sup>9</sup> Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man<sup>[a]</sup> came to seek and save those who are lost." **Luke 19:8-9 (NLT)**

Zacchaeus scrambled out of the tree, hardly believing his good luck, delighted to take Jesus home with him. **Luke 19:6 (MSG)**

- Response: Zacchaeus takes Jesus home.

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them." **John 14:23 (NIV)**