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Zacchaeus

-13th Story-

Narration In the town of Jericho lived a chief tax collector called Zacchaeus who was very short. A tax collector collects money from people. Zacchaeus would collect taxes not only from the rich but also forcefully from the poor. So the people did not like him and called him a sinner.

Narration But the more the people disliked him, the more Zacchaeus would harass them.

Zacchaeus Huh! You are nothing to me! - For sure, the most important thing in the world is money! Don't you dare tease me about my height! I will not tolerate it!!

Narration Zacchaeus made it his job to go around and harass the people every day.

Zacchaeus Pay your taxes! Pay them right now!

Person 1 Please could you give us a few more days? We don't even have enough to feed our children this month. Please give us a little more time..

Zacchaeus What does that have to do with me? If you don't have the money then you should at least give me grain! Otherwise I will have you thrown in jail immediately!

Narration In this way, Zacchaeus extorted tax from people and became very rich. Everyone hated Zacchaeus more and more, so Zacchaeus was always alone.

Narration Then one day, Jesus came to Jericho! Zacchaeus was curious about who Jesus was because he had heard about Jesus and how He had healed the sick in many towns and how He preached the word of God.

Zacchaeus I wonder who Jesus is! I should go as well.
I want to know who he is.

Narration Zacchaeus did not hesitate and rushed to see Jesus. But he couldn't get close to Jesus because of the crowd that had already gathered.



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Zacchaeus Hmm... what should I do? If only I was a little taller, then I would be able to see Jesus... Ah-ha! That's it!!

Narration Then Zacchaeus had an idea!

Zacchaeus Heave-ho! Heave-ho! If I climb this sycamore tree, I will be able to see Jesus! Heave-ho! Heave-ho!

Narration Indeed, Zacchaeus was able to see Jesus from the top of the sycamore tree!

Zacchaeus Ah~ There, that man in the white robe must be Jesus~

Narration While Zacchaeus was watching Jesus, Jesus stopped walking, looked up at the sycamore tree and spoke to Zacchaeus.

J e s u s Zacchaeus, come down immediately! I must stay at your house today!

Narration Jesus spoke to Zacchaeus as if they were friends from a distant past. Zacchaeus came down at once and welcomed Jesus gladly.

Narration But all the people who saw this began to mutter:

Person 2 How can Jesus go to the home of such a sinner?

Person 3 Indeed! Zacchaeus is so selfish!

Narration But Jesus paid no attention to their mutterings. Zacchaeus welcomed Jesus whole-heartedly and he said to Jesus:

Zacchaeus Lord, here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.

J e s u s Zacchaeus! Today, salvation has come to this house. The reason I have come is to seek and to save what was lost.

Narration Zacchaeus kept his promise and gave half of his possessions to the poor and paid back those whom he had cheated. Zacchaeus became a completely new person after encountering Jesus.



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