

Just Imagine – an exercise from a sermon by Tim Marshall

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God can use our imaginations to help us connect with Scripture and ultimately with Him. Make an appointment with God. Turn off your phone and don't take it with you. Grab a Bible, this page and pen and paper if you want to. Sit comfortably. Read the passage through once or twice in order to familiarise yourself with the story. Now close your eyes and imagine yourself in the story. Imagine being there. You may also want to think through the story a few times and each time imagine yourself as a different person. What can you obey? Be still. Talk to God.

Try it with the passage below. The questions are just to help you get going.

Zacchaeus tries to see who Jesus is

What I desire: To see you, Lord.

Luke 19:1-10 (NLT) | Jesus and Zacchaeus

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."

Prayer Points

The scene is in Jericho – a large city on a rounded hill overlooking the plains. . .

How is this day? Is it hot? Muggy? Touched by a lovely breeze? What do the streets look like? What do they smell like? What are the buildings like?

I see the persons. I watch and contemplate them.

How are they dressed? How large is the crowd? Are there many children around?

What does Zacchaeus look like? And Jesus? How does he move? What is the expression on his face? Do I see myself in the crowd? Who am I? Where am I standing? Could I be Zacchaeus?

I watch, notice, and consider what they are saying.

What does the crowd say about Jesus? How does Zacchaeus address him? How does Jesus respond? What does His voice sound like? Do you hear your own voice in the voices of the crowd, Zacchaeus, Jesus? Does Jesus talk to the crowds? How does He talk to Zacchaeus? How does He talk to you?

I watch and consider what they are doing.

What is the crowd doing? Are people talking to one another? Are they selling their wares? Are children running around and playing? Can you see Zacchaeus running ahead, climbing the tree? As Jesus arrives, what does he do? What do you do?

I take time to reflect within myself and draw some fruit from it.

How do I feel as I watch what is happening? How do I feel as I hear Jesus' words to Zacchaeus? How do I feel as I listen to the grumbling of the crowds? How do I feel as I welcome Jesus to my home? How do I feel as Jesus talks to me? When Jesus says to me "what do you want"? What is my response?

More passages for your imagination: Luke 15:11-32; Luke 7:36-50; John 11:1-44; John 8:3-11