



PEOPLE _____
OF _____
THE _____
SECOND _____
CHANCE _____

People of a Second Chance April 2, 2023

Speaker: Pastor Joel Schmidgall

Scripture: Luke 19:1-10, Matthew 18:3-5

Sermon Overview: Pursue God relentlessly. Allow Jesus to correct your view on who you are. Look at yourself from the perspective of the new identity that Jesus gives you. Trust God to redeem you and your circumstances. God's presence brings change and redemption.

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What type of "second chances" has God given you? In what areas do you need a second chance?
2. What obstacles block you from pursuing God fully?

Sermon-Specific Questions:

1. Despite his social standing and small stature, Zacchaeus made every effort to pursue and see who Jesus was. What "trees" have you climbed or do you need to climb to pursue Christ? What are three practical ways you can actively pursue God's presence today?
2. Zacchaeus was ultimately saved by trusting God's grace and then acting on his faith. His desire to right his wrongs, by repaying those whom he had cheated, indicated that he had undergone a true change of heart. What actions have you taken or changes have you displayed that demonstrate changes in your heart?
3. Read Matthew 18:3-5, where Jesus instructs us to become like little children. What does Jesus mean? Why must we be humble to enter the Kingdom of Heaven? Why is the status of children so important in His Kingdom? Children are humble, trusting, receptive, and dependent. In what areas of your life and faith do you need to become more childlike?

Digging Deeper:

- In your small group, with a friend, or with a person to whom God leads you, share your story. How has God redeemed your story? How did your heart and perspective change? How have you experienced the presence of God since that time?
- When we put ourselves into the hands of God, He remakes, remolds, and repurposes us. The Word of God is like a mirror. We use mirrors to see what we look like; therefore, we should look into God's Word to see who we are. Spend some time in silence. Ask God to reveal to you an aspect that He wants to remake, remold, or repurpose. Then, find a verse that tells you what God looks like in that area. Meditate on that, and imagine what it would look like if you manifested those same qualities.

Practical Application:

- Pursue God's presence by participating in the Stations of the Cross: Wednesday - Thursday, April 5-6, 5:30pm–7:00pm; Good Friday, April 7, 12:00pm–5:45pm (Capital Turnaround)
 - The Stations of the Cross is a traditional Lenten devotion where we read scripture and ponder scenes from the day of Jesus's death. These stations, or scenes, help guide our prayers as we meditate on His sacrifice for us. We have created our very own Stations of the Cross for you to experience this Holy Week. Meditate on devotional paintings created by Lionel Daniels as you follow along with a scripture reading and meditation on the NCC App. Bring your headphones for the audio or read along silently at each station. As you reflect on each station, you can use your imagination to be present with Christ as he walks toward Calvary.
- Download the NCC app or visit ncc.re/daily to listen to short, daily teachings M-F accompanying this series.
- Make a Bible reading plan a daily discipline and connect with NCC Daily. (Download the [NCC app](#) to find our plan).
- Jump into a small group this semester. They are all listed at ncc.re/groups.