

CAN YOU SEE HIM?

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man, he could not, because of the crowd. So, he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. – Luke 19:1-4



Throughout our islands, we are blessed with beautiful cliffs and majestic “*pali*” that reach towards the sky. *Pali* is the Hawaiian word for a steep hill or slope. For our Hawaiian ancestors, the *pali* was more than a mountain, it was a place of reference and reverence. It was a passageway to an eternal place from which the “spirits of the dead” took their final leap into the *po* (night).

The *pali* also symbolized a “barrier” that existed through indifference, especially, if there was a division between two people, or families, (*‘ohana*) of which *ho’oponopono* (conflict resolution) would help remedy and provide a solution towards restoring harmony. It was also regarded as a special place for *ali’i* (royalty) as the summit of a mountain was revered as a sacred place forbidden to *maka’ainana* (commoners). Today, the *pali* also provides a picturesque view for anyone willing to climb its summit. Despite its steep slopes and imposing cliffs, a “breath-taking” gift always awaits the beholder.

There was once a man named, Zacchaeus. He was a short, wealthy man that was very unpopular because as a tax collector, he would always collect more tax than people owed.

He’d give a part of the money to the Roman government and keep the rest for himself! One day, when Jesus was passing through the town of Jericho, Zacchaeus had heard about Him and wanted to see Jesus for himself. As the crowd gathered and grew larger, Zacchaeus couldn’t see above the crowd, so, he ran ahead and decided to climb a sycamore-fig tree. Along the way, Jesus looked up and saw Zacchaeus on the tree and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come on down! I need to go to your house and stay there today.” (Lk.19:5) Let me share two important points to this story. First, **JESUS KNOWS WHAT WE NEED**. Zacchaeus didn’t think he was important enough for Jesus, but Jesus noticed him. Jesus understood what Zacchaeus really needed. That night, Zacchaeus’ life changed. There’s nothing that our Lord doesn’t know about you and when we surrender our lives to Him, He moves in and completely transforms us. Jesus desires to live in you. He doesn’t want a “drive-thru” relationship. He wants to be a “resident”, not a “visitor”. He doesn’t want “visitation” rights, He wants full “custody”. He wants to make Himself at home in your heart and rule your house. Secondly, **JESUS KNOWS THAT WE NEED JESUS**. Zacchaeus really wanted to see Jesus. After his divine encounter, he repents and restores the goods that defrauded the people with the kind of open-handed generosity that characterizes those whose hearts have been transformed by the gospel. In a world that offers “self-help”, “self-serve” and “self-everything”, the grace of Jesus offers the ultimate gift of salvation and proclaims that it has come to Zacchaeus’ house (v.9). I want to encourage someone reading this devotional that the time has come to climb your “*pali*”. You can’t see Jesus if your circumstances are blocking your vision of the Savior. Elevate above the crowd and start your climb to get a glimpse of Jesus because there’s a supernatural and life-changing encounter that you don’t want to miss. CAN YOU SEE HIM?