



# Four Men Up in a Tree

# Absalom: Reaping What He Sowed

- 2Sam. 18:9-11 - "Then Absalom met the servants of David. Absalom rode on a mule. The mule went under the thick boughs of a great terebinth tree, and his head caught in the terebinth; so he was left hanging between heaven and earth. And the mule which was under him went on. 10 Now a certain man saw it and told Joab, and said, I just saw Absalom hanging in a terebinth tree! 11 So Joab said to the man who told him, You just saw him! And why did you not strike him there to the ground? I would have given you ten shekels of silver and a belt."

# Absalom: Reaping What He Sowed

- 2Sam. 18:12-15 - “But the man said to Joab, Though I were to receive a thousand shekels of silver in my hand, I would not raise my hand against the king's son. For in our hearing the king commanded you and Abishai and Ittai, saying, 'Beware lest anyone touch the young man Absalom!' 13 Otherwise I would have dealt falsely against my own life. For there is nothing hidden from the king, and you yourself would have set yourself against me. 14 Then Joab said, I cannot linger with you. And he took three spears in his hand and thrust them through Absalom's heart, while he was still alive in the midst of the terebinth tree. 15 And ten young men who bore Joab's armor surrounded Absalom, and struck and killed him.”

# Absalom: Reaping What He Sowed

- He squandered his blessings
  - 2Sam. 18:33 - “Then the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept. And as he went, he said thus: O my son Absalom-my son, my son Absalom-if only I had died in your place! O Absalom my son, my son!”
  - 2Sam. 14:25-26 - “Now in all Israel there was no one who was praised as much as Absalom for his good looks. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him. 26 And when he cut the hair of his head-at the end of every year he cut it because it was heavy on him-when he cut it, he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels according to the king's standard.”

# Absalom: Reaping What He Sowed

- He squandered his privileges
  - He was the third son of David and Maacah, daughter of King Geshur, a royal descendent twice over, and probable heir to the throne
- Wasted potential
  - 1Tim. 1:19-20 - “This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, 19 having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, 20 of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.”

# Judas: Rejecting The Son Of God Forever

- Matt. 27:3-5 - “Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, I have sinned by betraying innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? You see to it! 5 Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.”

# Judas: Rejecting The Son Of God Forever

- He rejected the call of the Lord
  - Judas was there when Jesus said "Come"
  - Matt. 11:28-30 - "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

# Judas: Rejecting The Son Of God Forever

- He rejected the call of the Lord
  - He was there when Jesus raised Lazarus
  - John 11:43-44 - “Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth! 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, Loose him, and let him go.”

# Judas: Rejecting The Son Of God Forever

- He rejected the call of the Lord
  - He was there when Jesus walked on the water
  - Matt. 14:25 - “But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. 25 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. 26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a ghost! And they cried out for fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid. 28 And Peter answered Him and said, Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water. 29 So He said, Come. And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.”

# Judas: Rejecting The Son Of God Forever

- He rejected the command of the Lord. Judas heard Jesus preach for three years
  - John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
  - John 6:47 - “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.”
  - John 5:24 - “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”

# Judas: Rejecting The Son Of God Forever

- There can be no salvation apart from Jesus
  - Acts 4:12 - “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”
  - John 14:6 - “Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

# Judas: Rejecting The Son Of God Forever

- He rejected the Christ. When Judas sold out Jesus, he was closing the door on his own soul
  - Matt. 26:14-15 - “...Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you? And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.”
  - Mark 8:36-37 - “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? 37 Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”
- When a sinner dismisses the Gospel, he isn't rejecting the messenger or merely the message, but the Christ of the message.

# Zacchaeus: Receiving The Savior

- Luke 19:1-5 - “Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. 2 Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. 3 And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way. 5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.”

# Zacchaeus: Receiving The Savior

- Luke 19:6-10 - “So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. 7 But when they saw it, they all complained, saying, He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner. 8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold. 9 And Jesus said to him, Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; 10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

# Zacchaeus: Receiving The Savior

- He had a desire to see Christ. When one searches for the Lord, he finds Him
  - John 1:9 - “That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.”
  - Matt. 7:7-8 - “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

# Zacchaeus: Receiving The Savior

- He had a desire to see Christ; when one searches for the Lord, he finds Him
  - Acts 17:27 - “so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us”
  - Prov. 8:17 - “I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me.”
  - Jer. 29:12-13 - “Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

# Zacchaeus: Receiving The Savior

- He had a definitive call from the Christ
  - John 6:44-45 - “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.”

# Zacchaeus: Receiving The Savior

- He had a drastically changed life
  - 2Cor. 5:17 - “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”
  - Ez. 36:26 - “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”
  - John 3:3 - “Jesus answered and said to him, Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

# Jesus Christ: Redeeming Our Souls

- Gal. 3:13 - “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us; for it is written, Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”
- Deut. 21:23 - “his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God.”
- 2Cor. 5:21 - “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

# All Four Ended Up In A Tree Because Of Their Own Choices

- Absalom chose rebellion against his father, and he died a lingering, shameful death brought about by apparent random events.
- Judas chose betrayal against the Christ and died a shameful, ugly death at his own hands.
- Zacchaeus started out in a tree because he was seeking the Lord and died a happy, glorious death to sin.
- Jesus ended up on a tree to die a painful, shameful death so that we could live forever.
- What do you choose?