

## **FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 31<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY YEAR-C-2025**

### **THE LOST:**

Today's gospel mentions the \*lost\* in it Jesus says the son of man has come to **seek and save what was lost(Lk.19:10)** in the Bible the lost sometimes means the damned but with Jesus the lost refers to **sinner who have gone astray.** Jesus up to today seeks these lost ones that they may be found. They are only missing **temporary from the gospel and grace.**

**The** gospel treats us to this great episode of the famous chief tax collector by the name Zachaeus, well known for his physical structure being very short! Yet very rich chap. He looked for all possible means to see Jesus till his intelligence spotted a tree on the road where Jesus was about to pass! He went for that since he was anxious to see this famous teacher. Zachaeus was despised by his own people since he was working for the Roman Empire and tax collectors were known for corruption.

Jesus was very popular among the people and was followed by so many people incidentally he **singled out, called** this tax collector as he passed by the place he had strategized over the tree and **told him he will be his guest.** It was an instant fame and rehabilitation for the tax collector. Jesus **recognized him as human being and didn't judge him, he affirmed his dignity in the crowd.**

Note the fact that Zachaeus had climbed the tree out of curiosity the fact is that people don't join the church due to theological reasons some are drawn by nice music, history, architectural and even others by firmness of the congregation despite the scandals in the church! The church is more than an individual, a

pope, Bishop, priest may fail but the office of priesthood remains. We learn a lot from Zachaeus indeed. Are we eager to spot Jesus among the confusions in our world? are we curious and search for ways and means to get to see him. Do we prepare well for all the sacraments where we locate him, what about when we take him in communion, is he not telling us today I will come to your house. How do we prepare our house for him to enter and stay with us?

Finally Jesus as he enters the tax collectors though he saw the wealth **but Jesus didn't condemn it either.** Jesus didn't criticise him as a person rather he **triggered a conversion on him and zachzeaus pledges to correct several times any wrong he may have done in the past. A new disciple is born and a soul is saved ofcourse.** This scene is teaching us so much about evangelization which can take many forms **confrontation, debate, arguments and correction,** too the **role of Christian friendship is seen whenever we live the gospel and we activate it in a personal relationship.**

**What can you learn from this tax collector and his confrontation with Jesus.** Let us open our minds and learn.