

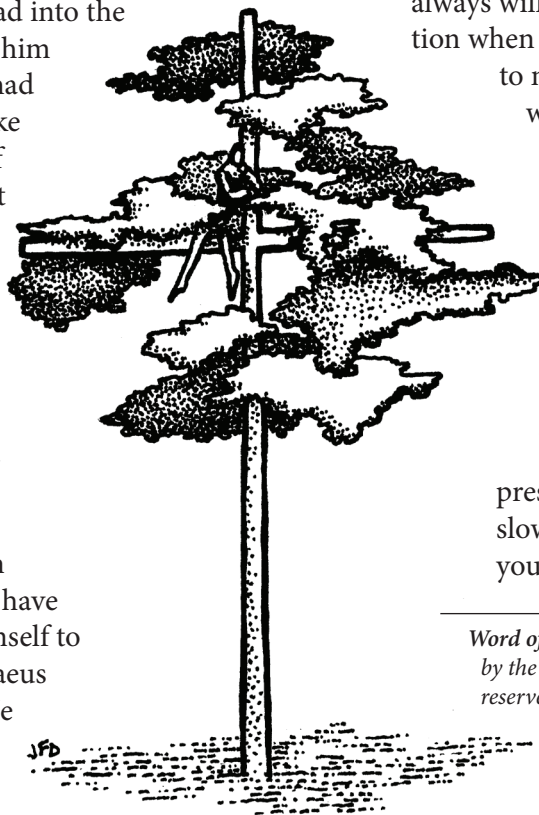
# Jesus Changed Plans

*This Week's Readings at Mass*

- ▶ Wisdom 11:22–12:2 - God's mercy
- ▶ 2 Thessalonians 1:11–2:2 - Exhortation to faithfulness
- ▶ Luke 19:1-10 - Zacchaeus the tax collector

Jesus is a great model for us in how to be flexible and change our plans according to the movement of the Spirit in the moment. As the passage begins, Jesus is passing through Jericho, presumably intending to stay on the road to Jerusalem. Then he stops, changes his plans, and decides he “must stay” at Zacchaeus’ house today when he spots the curious tax collector in the tree above the crowd. Had Jesus been told about Zacchaeus previously? Did he know his reputation as a chief tax collector, which to the Jews was synonymous with “extortioner, cheater, and sinner”? Did Jesus know anything about the man’s personal life, history, wealth, or family? If so, Jesus’ friends shouldn’t have been surprised that Jesus sought out the company of such a person; he had been doing that all along in his ministry. Clearly, the people who grumbled “he has gone to stay at the house of a sinner” didn’t know Jesus well.

Maybe Jesus’ ability to read into the hearts of people signaled him to engage this man who had the guts to climb a tree like a child to get a glimpse of him. Whatever it was that made Jesus change his plans, he was willing to make time for someone ready to talk, and it paid off. Zacchaeus was willing to admit his former sinfulness and was prepared to make amends and change his life. If Jesus has passed on through Jericho or didn’t have the boldness to invite himself to Zacchaeus’ house, Zacchaeus may not have changed. He may have remained lost;



© Jean Denton flock.pastoralcenter.com

“Your imperishable spirit is in all things! Therefore you rebuke offenders little by little.”

**Sheepish Question:**  
When my desires are consistent with God's, how can I effectively invite others to join in?

those whom he cheated wouldn’t have been compensated; and the poor wouldn’t have received half of his possessions.

Plenty of stories show us that Jesus was a driven man, but this story and many others show us that Jesus was always willing to stop, slow down, or change direction when people needed him—or were just curious to meet him. Fortunately for Zacchaeus, Jesus wasn’t in so much of a rush to get to Jerusalem that he wouldn’t make time for him.

## Questions of the Week

- 1 When has someone who was busy or in high demand changed plans to be available for you or a loved one?
- 2 Is there a particular area in your life where you feel particularly driven or pressured but perhaps God is inviting you to slow down, change directions, or reconsider your path? Please share.