

**Change in Self-awareness**      Thirty-third Week in Ordinary Time      Tuesday, November 20, 2018      Rev 3:1-6, 14-22;      **Lk 19:1-10**      (Jesus demonstrates a self that is connected to all and everyone and everything, that is indeed at one with the whole of God's creation and, therefore, with God himself.)

**“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.”**

So what was lost about Zacchaeus? He is described here as a very successful man, and that's something we have to note, that **the standards of the New Testament and the standards of society are very different.** By the standards of society of his day and our day he was very successful, but according to the standards of the New Testament and the teachings of Christ, he was lost. But in the story he is found. **He is found because he decides to commit himself to the poor and to those he has offended, to make amends, to make reparation.** This is a short way of talking about what is meant by repentance. It's a new way of thinking about oneself. It's a way of taking responsibility, number one, for **doing whatever good one can do**, even though one is not impelled to do it or forced to do it. Secondly, to **repair any damage that one has done through one's choices. This is repentance.** This is new life. This is conversion, and it is a **change**, and a profound one, **in the self-awareness.** It's being aware of oneself in a different way because one can go through life in a sort of conscious isolation, what one thinks of or feels as oneself a very small, little thing that can be walled off and protected from the rest of the world, cared for and preserved.

But that is not the self **Jesus** teaches or the one he demonstrates. He **demonstrates a self that is connected to all and everyone and everything that is indeed at one with the whole of God's creation and, therefore, with God himself.** The idea that many people have now and had then was that they could somehow be in communion with God and yet alienated from God's creation. That Jesus taught was impossible. Actually the Law taught it was impossible, but there are ways of interpreting to preserve one's smallness. On this day Zacchaeus suddenly and unexpectedly grew up “because this man too is a descendent of Abraham.”