



**Mennonite
Church**
Canada

Resource Centre

From our Churches

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Date: Summer, 2008

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Luke 19:1-10

Once there was a very short man named Zaccheus.

He was a tax collector. He collected money from all the people and gave it to the leaders.

People didn't like Zaccheus because he took their money.

Some people said he took more than he needed.

One day Zaccheus heard that Jesus was coming to town.

He decided to climb a tree so that he could see Jesus as he passed by.

As Jesus passed by he looked up and saw Zaccheus in the tree.

Jesus said to Zaccheus, "Zaccheus, hurry and come down. I must stay at your house today."

Zaccheus hurried down. And they went to Zaccheus' house for dinner.

Zaccheus was so happy that Jesus loved him.

Zaccheus stood up and said to Jesus. "I want to make things right. If I took too much money from anyone I will pay them back. I will give them even more money than I need to."

Jesus smiled at Zaccheus and said, "Today you have become a new person."

John 8:1-11

One day Jesus was teaching in the temple.

The people were listening to what he was saying.

The Pharisees came in with a woman.

The Pharisees said to Jesus, “This woman was sleeping with a man that was not her husband. Our law says we should stone her to death for the bad thing she did. What do you think we should do with her?”

Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger in the ground. He didn’t say anything.

Then he stood up and said, “Anyone who has never done a bad thing in their life can throw the first stone.”

The Pharisees looked around at each other. What were they going to do?

Finally one of the most important Pharisees quietly walked away. Then more Pharisees followed him.

Everyone has done something bad. Everyone has hurt someone or something.

After all the Pharisees walked away Jesus stood up and looked at the woman.

Jesus asked, “Where are all the men? Has no one decided to stone you because of the bad thing you did?”

The woman said, “They all left.”

Jesus smiled and said, “I won’t stone you either. I just ask one thing. Go and be born again. Don’t do that bad thing again.”

Genesis 32

Things weren't going very well for Jacob.

His father was angry with him for lying to him.

His father-in-law was unkind to him.

And now his brother Esau was on his way to see him with an army of strong men.

Jacob was afraid that Esau was planning to pay him back for the bad thing he did years ago. Years ago Jacob stole something from his brother.

Jacob sent his family across the river and waited alone for his brother in the night, in the dark. He couldn't sleep.

While he waited a man came and started fighting with him. The man was like an angel but Jacob didn't know it.

The man was strong but Jacob was pretty good at fighting. Then the man hit him hard on the hip and Jacob's hip got hurt.

But Jacob kept fighting and he said, "I won't let you go until you give me your blessing.

So the man asked, "What is your name?"

And he said, "My name is Jacob."

Then the man gave him his blessing. He said, "You will no longer be called Jacob. Your new name is Israel."

Jacob was given another chance to be good to other people. It was like Jacob had been born again.

Luke 15:11-32

Once there was a son who lived with his father and his brother. He had everything he needed.

But he decided that he wanted to leave home. He asked his father for his share of the money and he packed his bags and left.

His father was very sad to see him go. His father missed him very much.

The son spent all his money on all the things he wanted.

But soon he had no money for food. He was hungry and tired. He was homesick.

The son decided to go back home.

While the son was gone, the father sat outside his house and watched, hoping his son might be there. One day the father saw his son walking home.

The father jumped up and ran to his son. He put his arms around him and gave him a big hug. The father cried and said, "I'm so glad my son who was lost has come home again."

The father was so happy he threw a party for his son. He invited all the neighbors to come because his son was lost and now he was found. It was like he had been born again.

Luke 8:40-48

Once there was a woman who had been sick for twelve years. She had a sickness that made her bleed all the time. It made her tired and no one wanted to touch her because they thought she was dirty.

One day, as Jesus walked along with the people, the woman got an idea. She had seen Jesus heal other people. So she thought that if she just touched Jesus' clothes she would get better. She thought she would do it in secret when nobody was looking. Nobody would know.

So as the people crowded around Jesus the woman slipped into the crowd and touched Jesus' clothes.

Right away Jesus knew something had happened and he asked, "Who touched me?"

One of Jesus' friends, Peter, thought that was a silly question. So he said to Jesus, "What a silly question Jesus. The people are touching you on all sides."

Jesus would not listen. He said, "No this was different because power came out of me."

The woman knew that she could not walk away without telling the truth. She was scared but she knew Jesus was kind. She fell at Jesus' feet and told Jesus in front of everyone why she had touched him. She told him about her bleeding and all the places she had gone to get help. She told him that no matter what she did she kept bleeding." She felt ashamed to say this in front of all the people but she knew she had to.

Jesus was very kind to her and said. Daughter, your trust in me has made you well; go in peace."

She felt like she was born again. Jesus had made her a new person.

Luke 7:36-50

Once there was a woman who loved Jesus.

One day she heard that Jesus was invited to a very important man's house.

As Jesus sat and ate at this man's house the woman came in with a beautiful bottle of special lotion.

She stood behind Jesus and cried. As she cried she bathed Jesus' feet with her tears.

And she wiped Jesus' feet dry with her hair. Then she opened the special bottle and poured the special lotion on his feet. She rubbed in the lotion to make Jesus feel better.

The important man was upset. "How dare this dirty woman come into my house and do such an awful thing", he thought. "She is a sinner. She does terrible things. If Jesus were a man of God he would know the bad things she has done. He wouldn't let this woman touch him."

Jesus said to the man. "I know what you are thinking. But the woman knows she is a sinner. But she loves me even though she had done some bad things. She has made me very glad and my feet feel great!"

Then Jesus turned and smiled at the woman, "Your sins are forgiven. Whatever bad thing you did is forgotten. Your trust in me has made you a new person. Go in peace."