



# The Mar Thoma Church Diocese of North America & Europe Christian Education Forum

## Lenten Meditations

### TRANSFORMATION ON ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS CHRIST

Luke 19:1-10

Francis Thompson was an English poet and ascetic. He lost his way in drugs, and for the rest of his life he would oscillate between brilliant writer and a homeless addict. But he continued to scribble poetry wherever he could, mailing his work to the local newspaper. The editor took note that there was one greater than a Milton among them, a slumbering genius with no return address. Thompson acknowledged that he was running from God, and in fact, spent his life wrestling between his identity as a child on the run and his identity as a child who had been found. Once succumbing to the pursuing Christ, he penned the famous words to "The Hound of Heaven".

*"The Son of Man has come to seek  
and save that which was lost"  
Luke 19:10*

I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;  
I fled Him, down the arches of the years;  
I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways  
Of my own mind; and in the mist of tears  
I hid from Him, and under running laughter.  
Up vistaed hopes I sped;  
And shot, precipitated,  
Adown Titanic glooms of chasmed fears,  
From those strong Feet that followed, followed after.

The account of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10 is a story, that at a first glance it may seem like a series of chance events—Jesus was passing through Jericho and a rich tax collector climbed a tree to catch a glimpse of the miracle-working teacher. But this encounter with Jesus was not a coincidence. Everything changed for Zacchaeus the moment the gaze of the Master locked with that of this sinner. The encounter with Jesus led to repentance and changed his life. Jesus says, "Today salvation has come to this house".

"There is life for a look" the hymn goes. Jesus transforms us from darkness to light, from death to life, from a wandering life to a purposeful and fruitful life in Him.

Prayer: Help me Lord to know that you can give me life and transform me according to thy Holy will.

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