Jesus was on a loooooong walk.

As he walked through a town called Jericho

 Excited crowds of people gathered,

 “Is it Jesus? Is he coming here? Will he do a miracle? What will he do? What will he say?”

Zach was exited too!

He wanted to see Jesus.

So he joined the crowd.

“Uh, excuse me! Could you let me see please?” said Zach

He was so short he couldn’t see anything but the back of the person in front.

“No way, Zach!” “Go away, Zach!” “Not today, Zach!” said the people in front of him.

Nobody liked Zach.

 Zach had always been greedy

 And had taken stuff that belonged to others.

 Zach had always been rich

 But had never shared what he had with others.

 Zach had never helped anyone

 And now no-one wanted to help him.

So Zach did something he hadn’t done for a looooong time:

 He ran.

 He ran past the crowd to where Jesus was going

 Then he climbed a tree!

So now Zach could see Jesus coming along the road!

“Oh hey, Zach!” said Jesus, “Get out of that tree.”

“I’m coming to your house for dinner and to stay the night.”

Zach was surprised!

 And pleased!

 And he ran to get things ready for Jesus and his friends.

Everybody else in the crowd grumbled:

 “Why did Jesus go to Zach’s house? He’s a bad friend and a mean man! Don’t go to Zach’s!”

At dinnertime Zach stood up and said:

 “I’ve always been greedy

 But now I’m not going to take what isn’t mine.

 I’ve always had lots of stuff

 But now I’m going to share it with those who have nothing.

 If I’ve taken something from you

 I’m going to give it back; and give you more than I ever took.”

Zach had changed completely now that he knew Jesus!

Jesus told everyone that Zach had been **rescued** from being the bad man he used to be.

“I’ve come to **rescue** people like Zach.” Jesus said, “After all people in trouble are the ones who need **rescuing**!”

And now when people saw Zach they said:

“Oh hey, Zach!” “Wanna play, Zach!” “Have a nice day, Zach!”