

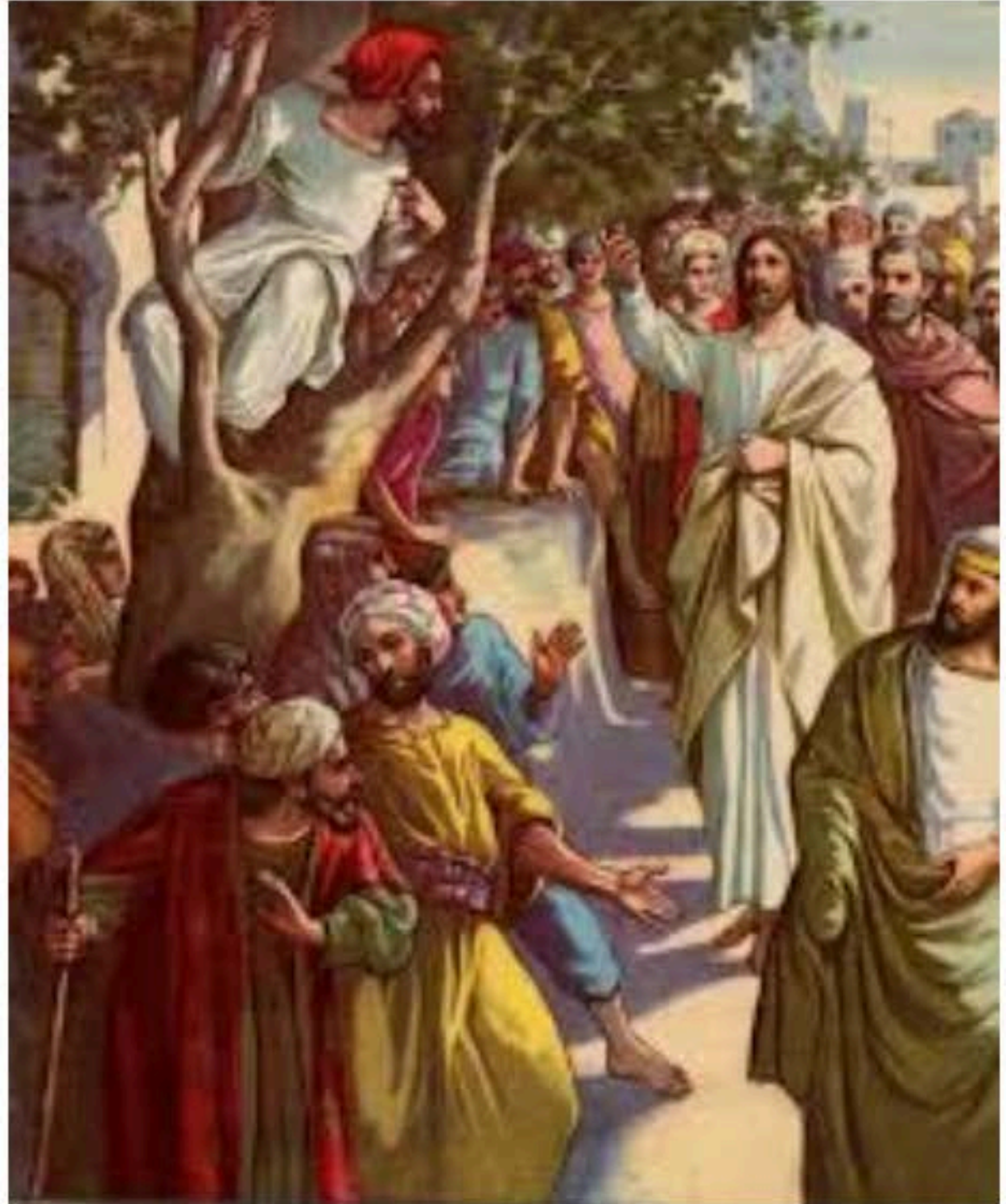
Zacchaeus

This story is about a man many people didn't like. They called him a sinner, but we all make mistakes and do things we shouldn't. The story starts when Jesus entered a town called Jericho. The word was spreading about this man named Jesus and the amazing things he was doing and saying. So it was common when Jesus came to a place, people would rush to see him.

In the town that Jesus was entering lived a man named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in town and had lots of money. Everyone that works pays taxes to the government or the people that run the city and country you live in. In some countries taxes help pay for doctor visits or to make or fix roads, pay for parks, or help those who can't work. Taxes for the most part help us live better so they really are a good thing, the problem is that sometimes people who got the tax money didn't always spend it properly or they took some of the money for themselves (which is stealing).

So the people from Jericho didn't like Zacchaeus very much, especially because he had lots of money and a big house. They figured he had taken some of the tax money for himself.

Zacchaeus had heard a commotion and soon realized that Jesus was in Jericho, so he rushed like everyone else to see Him. When he got to the crowd he couldn't see anything. He figured Jesus was in the middle of it somewhere but standing on his tiptoes he still couldn't even see Jesus. Zacchaeus wasn't very tall for a grown-up and couldn't ask someone to pick him up to see better like a child.



Zacchaeus

Suddenly Zacchaeus saw a sycamore tree in the corner of his eye and decided to climb it so he could see Jesus . When Jesus reached the spot Zacchaeus was he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So Zacchaeus climbed down right away and Jesus into his home.

Zacchaeus was surprised that Jesus knew his name without asking him first. He was also shocked that, Jesus didn't care that other people didn't like Zacchaeus, he wanted to visit with him at his house anyway. Also, Jesus said that he wanted stay at his house that day.

Jesus asked to go to Zacchaeus' house in front of everyone and as soon as they heard this they all started talking among themselves. They were shaking their heads and saying "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.' "

Zacchaeus jumped out of the tree and said to the lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my money to the poor, and if I have cheated or stole anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."

When Jesus heard this he said, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." Jesus was tolerant of Zacchaeus' bad behaviour and he forgave him. Jesus said that he came to seek and to save the lost.

