

“Now behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature. So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him.” (Luke 19:1-10)

“Blessed are the **pure** of heart, for they shall **see God**” (Matthew 5:8)

“‘**Sycamore-fig**’ and ‘fig’ [stands] for the truths and forms of good of the external Church.” (Secrets of Heaven 7553.4-5; see also 9277.4)

“A **fig tree** by correspondence symbolizes a person's natural goodness conjoined with their spiritual goodness.” (Apocalypse Revealed 334)

“The ‘city of **Jericho**’ signifies instruction in the knowledges of good and truth, by which we are introduced into the church.... And as ‘Jericho’ signified instruction it signified also the good of life, because **unless we are in the good of life we cannot be instructed in the truths of doctrine.**” (Apocalypse Explained 700:15; see also 444.14, 458.10)

“To be **rich and wealthy** means, symbolically, nothing else here than to have full knowledge and understanding of such things as have to do with the church and heaven, things which are called spiritual and theological, because they are the subject here. Spiritual riches and wealth are nothing else. People who base their beliefs on their own thinking, and not on the Lord through the Word, also believe that they know and understand everything. That is because their spiritual mind is closed and only their natural mind open, and without spiritual light the natural mind has no other sight.” (Apocalypse Revealed 206)

“Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a **tax collector**. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this **tax collector**. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the **tax collector**, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified *rather* than the other; for **everyone who exalts themselves will be humbled, and whoever humbles themselves will be exalted.**” (Luke 18:9-14; see also Matthew 9:9-13; 21:13; Luke 3:12-13)

“‘A *tree from a grain of mustard seed*’ signifies a person of the church, and also a church beginning from a very **little** spiritual good by means of truth; for if only a very **little** spiritual good takes root with a person it grows like a seed in good ground.” (Apocalypse Explained 1100.8; see also AC 55.3; Divine Love 17.5)

“The Lord is called the **Son of Humanity** when the subject is redemption, salvation, reformation, and regeneration, as we can tell from the following: ... *The Son of Humanity has come to seek and to save that which was lost.*” (Luke 19:10)” (Doctrine of the Lord 27)

# “Zacchaeus Climbs a Tree”

March 26, 2023

Rev. Solomon Keal

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The Lord is Good to Me ..... Gannon/Kent

**Opening of the Word**

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**Readings and Talk**

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(*Children put out the Candles*)

**Discussion**

**Closing of the Word**

**Please join us on Zoom at 11:00 am Sunday for a discussion.**

(**Help** is always appreciated: putting away the altar, taking down the quilt and rolling up the rug, stacking the chairs on the carts)

**Please note:** This service is livestreamed and recorded.

You and your family may be on camera, and your comments will be part of the livestream and recording.

**Song Leader:** Robin Bier, Director of Choristers

**Bryn Athyn Choristers Seraphim Choir**

Robert Asplundh, Mabel Bau-Madsen, Torin Brown, Raya Frazier, Freya Genzlinger, Isaac Genzlinger, Magnus Larsen, Renn Maddock, Caleb Smith, Jesse Smith, Mara Smith, Perci Synnestvedt

Bethany Genzlinger, Choral Scholar

**Livestreaming:** Helen Kennedy

“Generally speaking, the divine actions and powerful effects meant by the Holy Spirit are the acts of reforming and regenerating us. Depending on the outcome of this reformation and regeneration, the divine actions and powerful effects also include the acts of renewing us, bringing us to life, sanctifying us, and making us just; and depending on the outcome of these in turn, the divine actions and powerful effects also include the acts of purifying us from evils, forgiving our sins, and ultimately saving us. **These are the powerful effects, one after the other, that the Lord has on people who believe in him and who adapt and modify themselves in order to welcome him and invite him to stay. Divine truth has these effects.... The divine truth in connection with goodness, that is, faith in connection with goodwill, is the force that reforms and regenerates us;** then renews us, brings us to life, sanctifies us, and justifies us; and, depending on our level of growth and forward movement, purifies us from evils. (Being purified from our evils is the same as having our sins forgiven)... It is important to know that the Lord is carrying out these salvation processes in every single one of us all the time. They are the steps to heaven. The Lord wants to save everyone; his purpose is to save all people. Anyone who has a purpose desires the means to achieve it. The Lord's coming, his redeeming humankind, and his suffering on the cross were for the sake of our salvation (Matthew 18:11; **Luke 19:10**). Because saving people was his purpose and is his purpose forever, it follows that having the powerful effects on us that were just listed is his intermediate purpose, and saving us is his ultimate purpose.” (True Christianity 142)