

# Meditations On The Love Of God

21-day series

## meditations on the love of god

GOD IS LOVE





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## Practical steps for each day

### **1. FIND A COMFORTABLE POSITION.**

-Find yourself a comfortable position for you to spend the next 15 minutes. This could be a chair that can become your 'God chair' or it could be simply taking a comfortable position on the floor, either sitting or kneeling.

### **2. ELIMINATE DISTRACTIONS.**

-Where possible find a silent place – close the door, leave your phone outside, remove the noise.

### **3. CLOSE YOUR EYES AND BREATHE.**

-Closing your eyes and breathing deeply helps you to focus and consolidate all your energy on this time of prayer. Before you begin to read the day's meditation take five deep breaths with your eyes closed.

### **4. OPEN YOUR EYES AND READ THROUGH THE DAY'S MEDITATION.**

-Read through the passage of Scripture as many times as you wish. Let the words sink in. Then read through the attached meditation which is designed to lead you to a place of surrender.

-Having read through the meditation, spend some time in prayer, concentrating on the thoughts that have been pulled out of the passage.

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Day 7 - Jesus and Zacchaeus

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### **PAUSE—**

Close your eyes. Take a moment to still your mind and draw your scattered senses onto the presence of God. He is with you today, and He loves you.

### **BREATHE—**

Take five slow deep breaths, in and out. Allow your mind to clear as you focus on your breathing.

### **READ—**

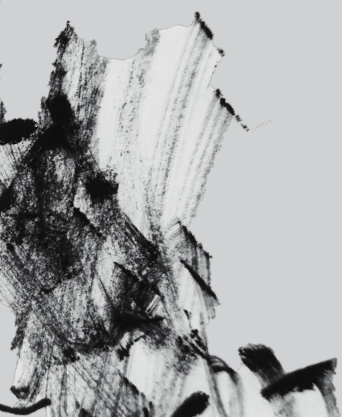
Read today's passage once or twice through, out loud if it helps.

*"Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today."*

**Luke 19:1-5**

### **REFLECT—**

Reflect carefully on the words in this passage. What do they mean? Take a moment to consider how God desires to be involved in your life, just as he desired to be involved in the life of Zacchaeus.



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## THINK—

Allow your understanding of these words to deepen as you contemplate this truth further. Read the thought below and allow it to resonate with your spirit.

The significance of this story is often lost on a modern audience because we can easily miss the scandal of what Jesus says and does. You see, tax collectors at the time of Jesus were despised, scorned and looked down upon, primarily because they cheated people out of their money. And to make matters worse, Zacchaeus wasn't just a tax collector, he was the chief tax collector. Unlike Bartimaeus who was looked down upon because of his poverty and low social status, Zacchaeus was looked down upon because he was rich and powerful, all of which came off the backs of other people.

Yet once again we see Jesus extending his unconditional love. He wasn't put off by Zacchaeus' wrongs, he didn't despise him like the rest of the crowd, he didn't even ignore him as so many others would have done. Jesus not only acknowledged Zacchaeus but he called him by his name.

At the time, sitting down for dinner with someone was a huge compliment; it meant that you considered the person you were dining with a friend for life. So, by asking to have dinner at his house, Jesus gave Zacchaeus a worth that no amount of earthly riches could ever buy, he showed him a love he probably never knew and he treated him as a friend. Something no one would ever expect.



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Day 7 - Jesus and Zacchaeus

Meditate today on the fact that you too are chosen by God. He calls you by your name and He considers you a friend. Regardless of your behaviour or your religious works, God chooses today to meet with you, wherever and whoever you may be.

## **PRAY—**

*God, thank you that you desire to be involved in my life. Thank you that you choose me today. I accept you into my life anew and invite you to work in and through me. Amen.*

