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**The
Favor
Factor**

RIGHTEOUSNESS

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Psalm 5:12 “Surely, Lord, You bless the righteous; You surround them with Your favor as with a shield.”

The Story of Zacchaeus and the Righteousness That Attracts God’s Favor

Luke 19:1-10

1. Righteousness Requires a RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

Luke 19:2-3 “Zacchaeus 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.”

Romans 3:10 “All people, whether Jews or Gentiles, are under the power of sin. As the Scriptures say, ‘No one is righteous - not even one.’”

Galatians 3:10-11 “But those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under his curse...for no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law.”

Luke 19:5-6 “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.’ Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy.”

**Righteousness is not how we
get close to God.
Getting close to God is how we
become righteous.**

1 John 3:2 “We know that when He comes again, **we will be like Him because we will see Him as He is.**”

Luke 1:68-75 “Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because **He has visited and redeemed His people.** He has sent us a mighty Savior...so we can serve God without fear, in holiness and righteousness for as long as we live.”

Luke 16:15 “Jesus said to them, ‘You like to appear righteous in public, but **God knows your hearts.** What this world honors is detestable in the sight of God.’”

2 Corinthians 5:21 “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that **IN HIM** we might become the righteousness of God.”

2. Righteousness Results in RIGHT LIVING.

Luke 19:8 “Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, ‘I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!’”

1 John 3:7 “Do not let anyone lead you astray. **The one who does what is right is righteous, just as He is righteous.**”

Whenever you turn TO God you must turn FROM sin.

Romans 6:16-18 “Don’t you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living.”

1 Timothy 6:11 “**Pursue righteousness and a godly life.**”

2 Timothy 2:22 “Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, **pursue righteous living**, faithfulness, love, and peace.”

Ephesians 4:24-30 “Put on your new nature, created to be like God - truly righteous and holy. So stop telling lies. And don't sin by letting anger control you. If you are a thief, quit stealing. Don't use foul or abusive language. And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live.”

3. Righteousness Reaps a REWARD of GOD'S FAVOR.

Luke 19:9 “Jesus responded, ‘Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham.’”

Rewards for the Righteous:

- Psalm 58:11 “Surely there is a reward for the righteous; surely there is a God who judges on earth.”
- Proverbs 13:21 “The righteous are rewarded with good things.”
- Proverbs 15:28 “The Lord hears the prayers of the righteous.”

- Proverbs 21:21 “Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity, and honor.”
- Psalm 84:11 “For the Lord God is our sun and our shield. He gives us grace and glory. The Lord will withhold no good thing from those who do what is right.”

Romans 5:17-19 “For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. **But even greater is God’s wonderful grace and His gift of righteousness**, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ...”

Memory Verse: Psalm 5:12 “Surely, Lord, You bless the righteous; You surround them with Your favor as with a shield.”

