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ZACCHAEUS

"I wish I weren't so small!" The little man looked at the crowd of people. His name was Zacchaeus. He had always been small. Because he was small, he thought people did not like him. So he did not like people. He treated others unfairly. He did not have any friends.

"I want to see what everyone else can see. How can I see through this crowd of people? I know! I will climb a tree!"

Quickly Zacchaeus climbed the tree. Now he could see the person everyone in the crowd had come to see. Now he could see Jesus.

When Jesus came by, he looked up into the tree and saw Zacchaeus. "Come down," he said. "I will have dinner with you tonight." "Me?" asked Zacchaeus.

"Yes, I will be your friend."

Zacchaeus was so happy. Out of that big crowd Jesus had chosen him to be a friend. The little man hurried home to make dinner ready.

Jesus and Zacchaeus talked and

talked at dinner time. "God loves you, Zacchaeus," Jesus said. "God loves everyone."

When Jesus left Zacchaeus, the little man knew he should be friendly to all people. He spoke to all the people he had been unfair to and said he was sorry. He made up for



the wrong things he had done. He told them "I did not know what it means to love others. Now I know."

"The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, the smallest seed in the world. After a while it grows up and becomes the biggest of all plants. It puts out such large branches that the birds come and make their nests in its shade . . ."

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