Many people say they are saved—but what does it truly mean to be saved? Is it just a prayer you say once, or a transformed life that continues daily? Today, we’ll explore this through the story of Zacchaeus, a man whose encounter with Jesus shows what genuine salvation looks like.

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1. Zacchaeus: A Life-Changing Encounter

Luke 19:1-10 (NIV) gives us the account:

> “When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.’ … Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody, I will pay back four times the amount.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house.’”
> – Luke 19:5, 8-9 (NIV)

Zacchaeus wasn’t just curious about Jesus—he was ready to change. When Jesus called him, he responded with joy, humility, and radical generosity. His response revealed a heart that had truly repented.

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2. The Fruit of True Repentance

Notice what Jesus said *after* Zacchaeus committed to making things right:

> “Today salvation has come to this house…” – Luke 19:9 (NIV)

Zacchaeus didn’t just say sorry. He corrected the wrongs he had done. This aligns with what John the Baptist preached:

> “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.” – Matthew 3:8 (NIV)

In other words, true repentance is not just a feeling or a

statement—it results in visible, tangible change. This kind of repentance involves both the heart and the hands: a change in attitude and behavior.

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3. Restitution: A Biblical Principle

Zacchaeus restored four times what he had taken. This reflects the Old Testament principle of restitution for theft or fraud:

> “If anyone sins… by deceiving a neighbor… he must return what he has stolen… and must add a fifth of the value to it.” – Leviticus 6:2-5 (NIV)

While the Mosaic Law required a 20% increase, Zacchaeus went far beyond—demonstrating a heart deeply convicted and eager to make things right. This is a key indicator of genuine conversion.

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4. Salvation Is Evident

Salvation is not hidden; it produces evidence. Jesus said:

> “By their fruit you will recognize them.” – Matthew 7:16 (NIV)

If we claim to follow Christ, our lives should show it—not just in words, but in deeds. That includes:

- Letting go of wealth or possessions gained through sin
- Walking away from immoral relationships
- Changing how we dress, speak, and conduct ourselves
- Making amends with those we’ve wronged

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5. Lip Service vs. Life Change

Jesus warned of people who honor Him with their lips but not with their lives:

> “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.” – Matthew 15:8 (NIV)

Repentance that doesn’t lead to transformation is false. A changed heart leads to a changed life.

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6. God Is Still Calling

Just like Zacchaeus, God is calling people today. He is ready to enter your “house”—your life—if you’re ready to respond in repentance and faith.

> “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” – Luke 19:10 (NIV)

Conclusion: Has Salvation Reached Your House?

If your repentance hasn’t resulted in change, it’s time to begin again.
Let go of sinful habits, make things right, and live a life that reflects Jesus. The call is not to perfection, but to surrender and transformation.

> “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” – 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

May the Lord bless you and strengthen you as you walk in true repentance.
Please share this message—it may be the turning point for someone else.

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