

# *UP* A TREE



# Climbing Trees

- When you're a kid, the presence of a great tree with lots of low branches is a certain invitation to **climb up and see the world** from a greater height.
- Of course, falling from that great height often leads to one of the first childhood trips to the emergency room and **a cast on a busted arm or leg** for the elementary school class to sign.
- Such a diversion, however, rarely becomes a deterrent for the **determined child adventurer**, as there will always be another tree beckoning to be scaled.



Kids in Trees

# Adults in Trees

- Adults, on the other hand, usually have a more restrained approach to being **“up a tree.”**
- Usually, being **“up a tree”** means that one is stressed and at wit’s end
- (As in, “Timmy fell out of the tree and needed a \$250 trip to the ER. And now I’m up a tree!”).

# Tree Climbers Intr.

- But not every adult associates being in the branches with being “out on a limb.”
- There’s an organization, in fact, called **Tree Climbers International**, which promotes the sport of low- impact, high-safety tree climbing for adults using ropes and harnesses.
- The group runs a tree-climbing school in Atlanta where one can literally “**learn the ropes**” and get climbing for fun and relaxation.
- It’s the **joy** of being a kid again while minimizing all the risk.





## Shop Online

Browse our selection of official Tree Climbers International merchandise: T-shirts and other apparel, educational materials, "Climber Above" products, and more!

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GEAR REVIEWS



CLIMBER FINDER

### Summertime!

Summer's here, and it's too hot to climb! Why not kick back and enjoy some of the old newsletters from the TCI archive?



### Making Friends In High Places

Tree Climbers International® (TCI®) is a worldwide organization of people who love to climb trees. We do this safely and with utmost care for the trees we climb.



Watch Video: A Day in the Tree

We want the sport of 'rope and harness' tree climbing available so that everyone can experience the joy and wonder of seeing the

### Learn At Home



### Events Calendar



# Benefits of Tree Climbing

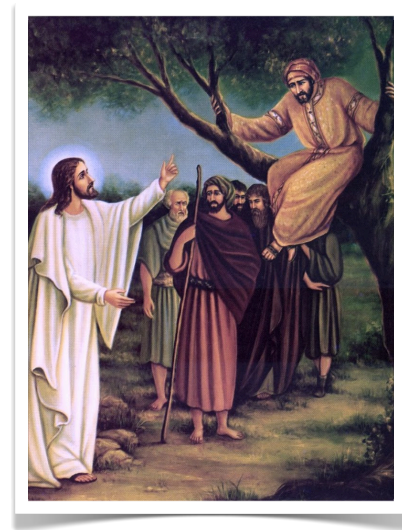
1. Tree climbing is good exercise.
2. Tree climbing is very safe.
3. Trees are everywhere!
4. Trees are alive and natural.
5. All your senses come alive.
6. Tree climbing is cost-effective.
7. You don't have to build an expensive structure.
8. Tree climbing is a year-around sport.

# Being a Kid Again

- According to Jim Latimer, “It’s the **joy** of being a kid again while minimizing all the risk.”
- But Gene King says, *minimizing* is the **key word** here.
  - Trees are often unpredictable.
  - As living things, they are constantly changing.
  - That branch that looks strong may have rotted underneath the bark.
  - The trunk may be waiting for that next strong gust of wind to finally give up holding on.
- Ropes or not, climbing a tree can be **dangerous** as well as **fun**, which makes it all the more enticing.

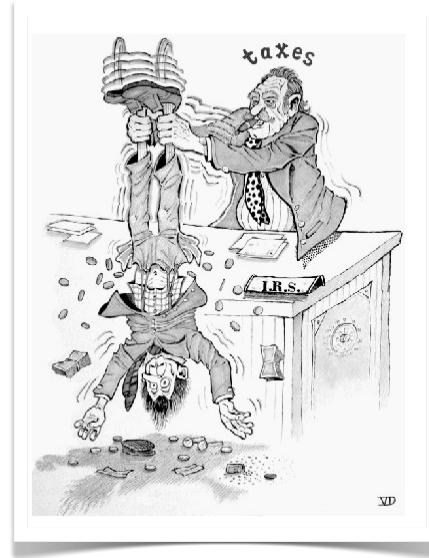
# Patron Saint of Tree Climbers

- We see that mixture of danger and excitement in the most famous tree-climbing story in the Bible—**Zacchaeus**, the Patron Saint of Tree Climbers.
- Zacchaeus was a **chief tax collector** -- a local entrepreneur who employed other tax collectors to collect all the tolls, tariffs and taxes in the local area, in this case the town of Jericho.



# Tax Collectors

- The **tax collectors** could charge the people whatever tax bill they wanted as long as their Roman overseers got paid the appropriate share.
- Whatever was left over often got pocketed by the tax collectors as **profit**, and no one in that system would have profited more than a man like Zacchaeus.
- It's no wonder, then, that tax collectors were among the most hated people in first-century Israel.
- They were the ones who often left their fellow Judeans **“up a tree”** over their heavy taxes and shrinking incomes.



# Friend of Tax Collectors

- However, Jesus doesn't seem a bit intimidated by these individuals at all.
- According to the the Gospel of Luke, . . . *the **tax collectors** and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."* (Luke 15:1–2 NIV)
- But, *Jesus said to them, "It is not the **healthy** who need a doctor, but the **sick**. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."* (Mark 2:17 NIV)
- *"I have not come to call the righteous, but **sinners** to repentance."* (Luke 5:32 NIV)

# Jesus Sees Zacchaeus

- Jesus looked at **Zacchaeus** hanging on a sycamore branch and said, *“Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.”* So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, *“He has gone to be the guest of a ‘sinner.’”* (Luke 19:5–7 NIV)
- Zacchaeus had gone up a tree seeking Jesus, but it was **Jesus** who came seeking Zacchaeus on his way to Jerusalem.
- ***“The Son of Man came to seek out and save the lost,”*** says Jesus, and showing up in the house of this tiny tax collector demonstrated to everyone in the crowd that those who were **up a tree** in their lives were the ones Jesus was and is seeking.



# Up a Tree

- Jesus came looking for people who are **up a tree**.
- The reason why **Zacchaeus** was up a tree in the first place was because he wanted to see Jesus.
- No doubt **Zacchaeus** was looking for something more than just a miracle worker.
- Like **Nicodemus**, Zacchaeus understood that the **signs, wonders, and miracles** were a testimony that Jesus was God's approved messenger.
- In other words, **Zacchaeus** was seeking truth and **Jesus** was seeking truth seekers.



# Truth Seekers

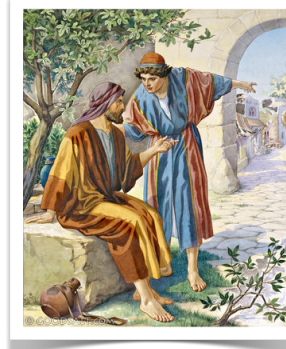
- The funny thing about it is that **“truth seekers”** are not always easy to spot.
- Who would think “tax collectors” and “publicans” would be truth seekers.
- I imagine even in our own society there are those that would surprise us that they have **a heart** for the truth and are **being led** by the Holy Spirit to climb trees.

# Zacchaeus Shows His Heart

- When Jesus invited himself to Zacchaeus' house, the Bible says that Zacchaeus came down at once and welcomed him gladly (Luke 19:6 NIV).
- Moreover, when the crowd murmured against him, he 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 out of anything, **I will pay back four times the amount.***" (Luke 19:8 NIV)
- Then, *Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a **son of Abraham.** For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."* (Luke 19:9–10 NIV)

# A True Israelite

- In Romans 9, the Apostle Paul gives a reason for Israel's failure in not accepting their **Messiah**. He says, *not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.* (Rom 9:6 NIV)
- *In other words, it is not the **natural children** who are God's children, but it is the **children of the promise** who are regarded as Abraham's offspring.* (Rom 9:8 NIV)
- *When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here is a **true Israelite**, in whom there is nothing false." "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." (John 1:47–48 NIV)*
- In other words, Jesus knew Nathanael and that he was a **true Israelite** before he saw him. Jesus knew Nathanael's heart already.



Phillip tells  
Nathaniel

# Purpose of Outreach

- The purpose of all **missions** and **evangelism** is to find those who are really *truth seekers* and make them into **disciples** of Jesus' teaching so they will escape the judgment that is coming to the earth.
- These individuals are **already** called of God and chosen by grace and not by works.
- However, many of them don't know it yet until the **word of God** is declared to them.
- This is why the Scripture says, *God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.* (1 Cor 1:21 NIV)

# Up a Tree

- If the Spirit of God lives in you then it is because God saw you **up a tree** looking and searching for truth—even though you were once under the power of sin.
- Jesus came to us to **bring us the truth** so that by it we may become followers of the truth and so escape **the wrath** that is coming to the earth.
- This is why it says, *God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."* (2 Tim 2:19 NIV)

# Looking for True Israelites

- Again, it is not easy to **spot lovers of the truth** by just watching them walk down the street.
- However, if you sit down with them long enough and share with them the things God has done in you, it should become obvious before too long, if they too are **sons of Abraham** and **true Israelites**.
- *Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open **your eyes and look at the fields!** They are ripe for harvest. (John 4:35 NIV)*
- There are people all around us who are **up a tree**. All we have to do is call them down and spend some quality time with them.

# Phillip Tells Nathaniel



- *Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel."*
- *Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see **greater** things than that." He then added, "I tell you the truth, you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." (John 1:49–51 NIV)*
- When we become a **true disciple** of Christ, we will see awesome things done through the name of Jesus Christ.
- So then let us go and find true Israelites who want to be disciples of the truth.