

July 7 to 13

Education Department

**The Human One came to seek and save the lost.
(Luke 19:10 CEB)**

Only that which is valuable is sought after

This week's text is taken from Luke's Gospel. It's about the conversion of Zacchaeus, the tax collector, to whom Jesus speaks on his way through Jericho; what's more, he says that he wants to go and visit him and his family at their home. Now Zacchaeus, as a tax collector, had cheated many people, and that Jesus should approach such a sinful man in this way, caused anger and lack of understanding with those who witnessed the encounter. If Facebook and Twitter had existed in those days, a media shitstorm would have been unleashed against Jesus! Nevertheless, he makes his position clear to his opponents in just one sentence: the sentence which is our text.

The statement which is being made by this story, touches me very deeply: Jesus seeks! To seek is to be proactive. He, Jesus, doesn't wait until someone just comes along by chance; rather, he sets out himself and instigates a search.

I only search for something which I consider to be valuable. I search for that which I need, which I think is important. I have lost many things, or forgotten where I had put them. With some of these things, I wasted no time in looking for them. When I compare this knowledge with the way Jesus behaves, then I must recognize something: that someone sought me means that I must be worth it. I must be important enough that someone set out with the sole purpose of finding me, and didn't give up. Rather, he defended his actions in the face of opposition!

Wow, to be honest, that really makes me feel good.

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I give thanks

- that God doesn't give up seeking out people, thereby showing how precious we are to him
- for the many people in small groups and house groups who can tell the story of how they were found

I pray

- that through the work of the Education Department, we may succeed in strengthening people in their faith
- that we succeed in giving people enough space to develop creatively and have the experience of being beloved children of God
- for success in our volunteer-focussed programmes, so that participants experience a boost in their work

Education Department

The EmK Education Dept. promotes adult training in our churches, groups for parents and children, house groups, get-togethers for pensioners as well as church seminars. It does this through workshops and courses for co-workers. The Education Dept. advises and supports congregations in church development and conflict management. It trains volunteer workers in preaching, counselling and leadership.

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