

Next Part 2: Goal Line

(Luke 19:1-10 NIV) Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "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." But 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 out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." 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 the lost."

Far From God

(Philippians 3:13-14 NIV) Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

(Isaiah 59:2 GNT) It is because of your sins that he doesn't hear you. It is your sins that separate you from God when you try to worship him.

✓ 18 miles from God

✓ 18 yards from God

✓ 18 inches from God

Finding Hope

1. Know God

(Matthew 7:21-23 NIV) "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you.'"

(1 John 2:3 NIV) We know that we have come to know Him, if we obey His commands.

2. Find Freedom

(Matthew 11:28-30 NLT) Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.

(Galatians 5:1 NIV) It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

3. Develop my Gifts

(Romans 12:6 NIV) We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.

(1 Peter 4:10 NLT) God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God's generosity can flow through you.

(1 Corinthians 12:1 NIV) Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.

4. Make a Difference

(Matthew 13:23 NLT) The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!

(1 Timothy 6:17 NASB) Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy.