

CLOSER CONNECTION, TANGIBLE CHANGE

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU?

- Natural to think about new
 1. People often disappointed with resolutions
 2. Can be the result of leaps instead of steps
- A great goal is a closer connection with the Lord
 1. You have the capacity to come closer
 2. Take the step of believing you can (*Mark 9:23 ESV*)

A SMALL MAN MAKES A BIG CONNECTION (Luke 19:1-10 NKJV)

- He was the last guy anyone expected Jesus to connect with
 1. He worked for the Romans collecting taxes
 2. But Zacchaeus had a desire, want, to see Jesus
- Zacchaeus had a desire to connect with Jesus
 1. Hurried down and received Jesus joyfully
 2. Zacc could have passed on Jesus coming to his house
- Zacchaeus' closer connection with Jesus changed him
 1. He knew he was accepted and valued by Jesus
 2. Accepted by Jesus meant he was accepted by God
 3. Jesus did not make Zacc do anything - he wanted to

YOUR CLOSER CONNECTION TO THE LORD

- His promise Your move (*Jeremiah 29:11-13 NLT*)
 1. God has not changed; His plans for you are good
 2. Two reasons to have a closer connection
 3. Start with His Word
 4. Don't hit a roadblock and quit
- Your closer connection will bring tangible change
 1. A growing realization of how much Jesus loves and accepts you
 2. A growing realization of how blessed you are because of your connection to Him (*Psalms 118:19-20 NKJV*)
 3. A closer connection with Him frees you to realize your potential