

**Message:** Our God: The Great Initiator

**Scripture:** Luke 19:1-10

**Teacher:** Andy Lewis

**Date:** 30 June 2013

## The Drama of the Gospel

## The Tragedy of the Gospel

## The Comedy of the Gospel

### Luke 19:1-10

<sup>1</sup> He entered Jericho and was passing through.

<sup>2</sup> And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich.

<sup>3</sup> And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature.

<sup>4</sup> So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way.

<sup>5</sup> And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today."

<sup>6</sup> So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully.

<sup>7</sup> And when they saw it, they all grumbled, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner."

<sup>8</sup> And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."

<sup>9</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham.

<sup>10</sup> For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

*"The laughter of Abraham and Sarah at the angel's extraordinary announcement does not eliminate the darkness, because through the long, childless years of the past, darkness has already taken its toll, and in the long years that lie ahead there will be darkness for them still as, for instance, when Abraham is asked to take the child of the promise and offer him to God as a burnt offering... They are going to have a baby after all. It is just what was bound not to happen. The old schlemozzle is going to be the father of a great nation in spite of everything. It is just what was not inevitable. If anything was inevitable, it was that the soup would be spilled on him again. The stranger who appeared at their tent door turned out to be not a man to read the meter but an angel. Who could have possibly predicted it? Who could have possibly made it happen, grabbed an angel by the wing and pulled him down out of the sky and contrived for him to give such astonishing news? It all happened not of necessity, not inevitably, but gratuitously, freely, hilariously. And what was astonishing gratuitous, hilarious was of course the grace of God. What could they do but laugh at the preposterousness of it, and they laughed until the tears ran down their cheeks.* Frederick Buechner

Get to know our guest speaker:

**Teaching Pastor - Andy Lewis, Senior Pastor  
Mitchell Road Presbyterian, Greenville, S. C.**

Andy Lewis has an impressive resume. It's the story behind it all which elevates his title to more than a job and takes it to a true calling. It's a redemption story he has experienced and one he finds joy in helping others discover in their relationships with Christ. It comes as no surprise then that one of his favorite scriptures is John 10:10. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." Andy is married to Elizabeth, and they have three children.

**Degrees:** M. Div Erskine Theological Seminary 2000-2002

**Service at MRPC:** 1997-2000 Associate Youth Director; 2002-2008

Associate Pastor; 2008 - Present Senior Pastor

**Favorite Book:** "Orthodoxy" by G.K. Chesterton

**Favorite Movie:** "Cool Hand Luke"

**Favorite Childhood Memory:** Taking a three week long camping trip

with the family across the country

**If not in Ministry, he would have been:** A professional golfer

(or most likely a caddie) or jazz drummer

**If not in Greenville, he would live:** Carmel, California, or Christ Church, New Zealand