

**Thought for the day – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022**

**By Revd John Marshall**

**The story of Zaccheus Christopher Smart  
1771) from Divine Inspiration**

**(England 1722-**

**The Life of Jesus in World Poetry Oxford**

Through Jericho as Jesus came  
A man (Zaccheus was his name)  
Chief of the Publicans for gold  
And pow'r, sought Jesus to behold;  
But could not for the press his eyes  
Indulge by reason of his size.  
He therefore hasty ran before,  
And climb'd upon a sycamore;  
That he his passing Lord might see.  
Who when he came beside the tree,  
Look'd up, and saw him o'er his head,  
'Zaccheus, haste, come down,' he said;  
'For in thy house this very day  
Thy Lord has purposed to stay.'  
He therefore coming down in haste,  
With joy his holy Guest embrac'd:  
Which when observ'd by all the rest,  
They murmur'd, that he went a guest  
With one so much immers'd in sin.  
Mean time Zaccheus stood withFoin,  
And said unto the Lord, 'Behold,  
The half of my ill-gotten gold  
I give the poor; and if by theft,

Or falsehood, any I've bereft  
Four-fold the same I will replace.'  
Then answer'd Jesus. 'This day grace  
Is come upon this house; for he  
Is also Abraham's progeny.'

*Praiseworthy in a high degree  
Is godly curiosity;  
To search the Lord, above, around,  
If haply he may yet be found  
Short-sighted reason, dwarf desire,  
Are faith and zeal when lift'd high'r.  
Then on the Tree of Life sublime  
With hands and knees devoutly climb;  
Catch mercy's moments as they fly,  
Behold! the Lord is passing by.*

I do like the story of Zaccheus, I like his eagerness to see Jesus, and Jesus' response.

What would we do?