



EPISODE TITLE: "The Looter Who Became Jesus' New BFF"

Hookers, Looters and Cheats, Episode 4

**Featured Guest:** *Fred Plumer*

After an extensive background in building management, real estate development and restaurant ownership and management, Fred Plumer made a career shift in 1981. He earned his M.Div. degree at the Pacific School of Religion while doing work in an inner city community center. In 1984 Rev. Plumer was called to the Irvine United Congregational Church in Irvine, California to lead a UCC new start church. The church became known throughout the denomination as one of the more exciting and progressive mid-size congregations in the nation. Rev. Plumer served on the Board of Directors of the Southern California Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC) for five years, and chaired the Commission for Church Development and Evangelism for three of those years.

**Questions:**

1. What stood out for you from Luke 19: 1-10?
2. Why do you think stories similar to this one are thematically repeated in the gospels and other scripture?
3. In what ways is the story of Jesus and Zacchaeus about transformation in life here and now? What implications does it have for us today?
4. What is the power of grace when it comes without preconditions?

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

19 He entered Jericho and was passing through it. <sup>2</sup>A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. <sup>3</sup>He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. <sup>4</sup>So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. <sup>5</sup>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 down and was happy to welcome him. <sup>7</sup>All who saw it began to grumble and said, 'He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.' <sup>8</sup>Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.' <sup>9</sup>Then Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. <sup>10</sup>For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'

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