

First Baptist Church of Hampton
Rev. Dr. Todd C. Davidson, Senior Pastor
April 24, 2022
Sermon Outline Closed Notes:

Sermon Scripture: Luke 19:1 – 10 (GNT)

Message Title: Is Your Religion Real?

Current Context:

- Religion, in our beloved community, used to be synonymous with faith-inspired leadership and love!
- Inherent in the word religion, is a unique sense of community.
- Christian religion at one time stood for a community that would make a few friends and family members gather in a house for several days to wait for some promised Holy Spirit.
- Interestingly, the term religion no longer holds the grand nostalgia it once held/
- If the church, however, is going to get back to real religion, we must be willing to reimagine!
 - Because thinking BIGG, helps you find balance!
- In the text Jesus is confronting this struggle to find communal connections and balance.
 - He has the religious leaders indicating that real religion just means not eating with sinners; not being seen with sinners; not knowing sinners, on the one hand...real religion is about the don't do's.
 - And then on the other hand he meets Zacchaeus, who was not a part of the religious tradition and culture, but wanted access to Salvation and liberation...he needed his life changed and challenged by Jesus!

Relevant Question(s):

- How do we make sure our religion is real so we can grow in faith?

Sermon Observations:

1. You must avoid rumor religion!
2. You must avoid residue religion!
3. You must embrace the redemptive relationship!

Calvary Connection:

- “Yea though I walk through the alley!”
- On a hill far away, Jesus showed up; we were lost on our journey, and Jesus showed up; we needed a Savior and Jesus showed up! In an alley called Golgotha, Jesus showed up! On Friday it looked like He wouldn't show up; on Saturday, sin thought it had dealt its best blow...but early on Sunday morning, Jesus showed up with all power!

Personal Reflection:

- How do you know you are growing in faith? What are the signs/markers for you?