

Jesus, the Identity Activator

To activate is to make active or intensify. It literally means, to put into action.

The etymology of the word activate: 1620s, "make active, intensify;" Meaning "put into action" is from 1902, originally in chemistry.

We already have an identity from God. Jesus comes activate that identity.

What's the point of getting a phone upgrade if it never gets activated? Some people are like cell phone upgrades, it takes 2 to 24 hours before they are activated. For people it is 2 to 24 years before they are activated. Let's believe God for immediate activation of identity when people get saved. Let's examine some passages where Jesus activates identity.

Luke 19:1-9

¹ *Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through.*

Are you aware of Jesus passing through in your life? A lot of Jesus' miracles took place as He was passing through. He would not have necessarily stopped unless He was summoned. Are you doing the things that cause Him to stop when He was just passing through? Do you know how to get heaven's attention? Let's see what Zacchaeus did.

² *A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy.*

³ *He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd.*

⁴ *So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.*

Zacchaeus wanted to see who Jesus was. He had heard about Jesus but did not leave it there. He wanted to see for himself. Many people today have second-hand revelation of Jesus. They have heard about Him but sadly they leave it there. This man did something different. His desire to see Jesus caused him to set aside his dignity and RUN and CLIMB UP A TREE. Grown men didn't do that. In order to run he would have had to hitch up his tunic and show his bare legs. In the first Century Middle East it was shameful for a man to do that. However, the father of the prodigal son ran to him. In this case we see Zacchaeus running. What are you willing to do to see Jesus? This kind of desperation gets Jesus' attention. Maybe it was easier for Zacchaeus because he knew people hated him. Perhaps he had become dead to the need for their praise. Jesus sees your desperation and responds. Zacchaeus positioned himself to see.

If we want an encounter with Jesus that activates us into the fulness of our identity we need to position ourselves to see.

What is it about your posture toward Jesus that would cause Him to stop at your house when He was just passing through town?

God is no respecter of persons but He is a respecter of faith.

We don't just want a visitation; we want God to make us His habitation.

⁵*When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."* ⁶*So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.*

We don't know how long Jesus spent there. Was it just for a meal or was it for a night? What we do know is that Jesus summoned him to come down immediately. Jesus also spoke with a sense of urgency. Zacchaeus also welcomed Jesus without hesitation. There are things Jesus wants to activate in our lives today, but we need to respond without hesitation.

⁷ *All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner."*

Jesus doesn't mind being misunderstood by the crowd when He reactivates your identity.

Do you think you will only see Jesus from afar or do you believe that He can come to your home?

Do you believe He wants to be hosted by you?

⁸ *But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount."* ⁹ *Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham."*

There is always a crowd. The crowd always has an opinion. This did not stop Zachaeus. The crowd can try to disqualify you from an identity activation but Jesus doesn't.

Man cannot demote that which God has promoted.

In verse 9 we see Jesus declaring this man's true identity. This is how God works. He looks past our frailties and mistakes and reminds us of who we really are. In this way, God is covenantal. Don't disqualify yourself based on your performance.

This narrative is important as it highlights the power of repentance and restitution in the process of identity activation.

Jesus loves to remind both you and others of your identity.

It is important for your identity to be known by you and also declared to others.

Mt 21:1-16

¹ *As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."*

You can be called at the same time as someone else. Jesus seemed to need both the donkey and the colt. Many people disqualify themselves because they do not feel unique. For example, they wonder why they should write because they know others that have written similar topics.

They needed to untie them in order for them to live out their purpose. Identity activation requires for you to be loosed from certain things.

In a similar account in Luke it said the donkey had never been ridden on. God wants us to be completely His. Identity activation involves the deactivation of pseudo-identities.

Jesus knew that they might be asked questions. When our identity is being activated people will at some point ask WHY. Tell them Jesus needs you. You have been chosen. You don't need long elaborate explanations.

⁴ *This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: ⁵"Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"*

Jesus has come to activate what He already knows about you. Identity activation is prophetic fulfilment.

Have you located yourself in scripture?

⁶ *The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.* ⁷ *They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on.* ⁸ *A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.* ⁹ *The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"*

The activation of your identity will result in God being glorified. John 15:8 says: *This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

¹⁰ *When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?"* ¹¹ *The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."*

The activation of your identity will cause people to be curious and ask questions.

Jesus at the Temple

¹² *Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves.*

Identity activation will require certain things in your life to be overturned.

There are a lot of activities that take place in sacred environments yet God does not approve of them.

Gideon had his identity activated when God called him a mighty warrior, but he still had to destroy the idols in his father's house.

When Jesus changes things in your life it can sometimes look messy. He didn't politely ask them to leave. The temple was already consecrated to God so in a sense Jesus was in charge. Our bodies are His temple today.

What is it in you that Jesus is overturning and driving out?

Do you see it as a loss? Are you conscious of what you might gain instead?

Are you aware that it is Jesus doing this?

Surely it was alright to sell doves if they were used for sacrifices?

¹³ *"It is written," he said to them, "'My house will be called a house of prayer,'^[e] but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'"*

Jesus will always explain why He is doing something. He goes back to the identity of His house.

- What are you making certain things become?
- What are you making family become?
- What are you making marriage become?
- What are you making your body become?

Jesus has given these things an identity but we often make them become something else.

¹⁴ *The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them.* ¹⁵ *But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant.*

This account ends with Jesus demonstrating the purpose of the temple according to its true identity.

Would you rather sell doves to people or experience Jesus' miraculous power?

When Jesus drove out the money changers He was making way for His power to flow.

The church today wants to experience miracles but is unwilling to drive out the money changers.

There are those with a contrary spirit that will continuously fight against identity activation.

¹⁶ *"Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "'From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise'?"*

Again Jesus locates the activity in scripture. By doing so He is reminding them of who they really are.

Romans 8:19

For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

Your community is waiting, your church is waiting, your nation is waiting, your family is waiting for your identity to be activated. Are you ready to position yourself for Jesus the Identity Activator?