What Jesus came to do for you.

The story of the encounter between Jesus and Zacchaeus is a great favourite with many people, and we can probably remember drawing pictures and singing songs about it when we were children!

Actually it is a stunning story and ends with Jesus speaking these words in which he summarises something of his mission to the world: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." - Luke 19:10

Zacchaeus had been an illustration of this mission. It became not just a mission to the world but a mission to individuals - his mission to each one of us.

The word 'lost' is interesting. In the Greek it could also mean that which is ‘destroyed’ or ‘ruined’, and that is exactly what the mission and ministry of Jesus was about. When he healed the sick - whether bodies, minds or hearts - what he was doing was to reach out to the destroyed and ruined parts of people and bring his salvation, his transforming power. He touched people willingly and joyfully, without any condemnation of how they had arrived in that state.

Even in the story of Zacchaeus, it is stunning how Jesus never condemns this man whose heart was probably filled with greed. Jesus saw a lost person and brought change to him.

This is still his mission today. There may be parts of us that are in really great shape, but also parts of us that have been ruined or destroyed. Jesus came to look for these hurting places, not with any desire to condemn or accuse us for having such places in our lives, but to seek to bring his transforming power to us.

Our challenge is to come to him, to believe that is why he came, and to be willing to offer to him all the hurting places in our lives.

One way of doing this is to sit quietly and ask yourself where Jesus is for you. You might have a sense of him near you, around you or within you - it doesn't matter where he is, there are no right or wrong answers.

As you find him, trust him enough to share your 'lost' places with him. What would you like him to touch in you? As you ask him, pay attention to what he might say back to you. What words from the bible seem to come to you, what pictures move across your mind, what spontaneous thoughts occur to you? These may well be him communicating with you and starting to bring his transforming power into your life.