

Group/Individual Study

Series: Love Everyone Always - Zacchaeus

Passages: Luke 19:1-10

REFLECT on the message heard Sunday, 9/10

1. Read Luke 19:1-10. What was the significance of being a tax collector in Israel during this time? Why were they so universally hated?
2. "Tax collectors and sinners" was the catch-all phrase used in New Testament times to describe the worst society has to offer. Religious people were often angry at Jesus for hanging out with people like this. What do you think would be the 21st century equivalent of the "tax collectors and sinners" Jesus seemed to love? Imagine Jesus among modern day "tax collectors." Describe how you think He would relate to them?
3. Church people sometimes worry that, "If I accept and love this person, am I endorsing their lifestyle?" Jesus never seemed to worry about that. He seemed to draw people to himself--then in the context of loving relationship, begin sorting out lifestyle. Have you ever felt this tension? What can Jesus teach us about how to live in this regard?
4. Jesus' loving stance towards Zacchaeus is repeated many times in the New Testament. Name some other people in the New Testament that the religious folk might have shunned but that Jesus seemed to have special love for? Have you ever walked out something similar? What was it like? What did it bring up for you?
5. Describe how Zacchaeus' life changed after Jesus loved him. Does it seem that Zacchaeus' life change was a **result of** Jesus' love or the **cause of** Jesus' love? Can you draw any principles from this to describe the relationship of Jesus' saving love and how our lifestyles begin to conform to His ways?
6. There's a saying, "Christians are the only fishermen on earth that try to clean their fish before they catch them." What do you think it means? How can you apply the truth of this passage to your heart and to your life today?