



Berean Family Worship Center
One Church In Two Cities
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Wednesday, April 21, 2021 - Group Study

Lesson Series: The Work Of Ministry

Lesson Series Text: *(Eph. 4:7-12)*

Lesson 4: Looking For Zacchaeus

Lesson 4 Text: *(Luke 19:1-27)*

All Scriptures are KJV; unless otherwise noted.

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- I. In the previous weeks we've talked about:
 - A. A New Paradigm of Ministry.
 - B. Your Work Your Ministry.
 - C. Taking the Kingdom to the People.
- II. There is a misconception that something is wrong with Christians excelling in the market place and becoming rich because of their success.
 - A. Make no mistake that there are many snares in the mishandling of great wealth.
 - B. Paul admonishes wealthy Christians not to be high minded, nor to put their trust in uncertain riches. Instead he tells them to put their trust in God and be willing to give. *(1 Tim. 6:17-19)*
 - C. James warned the rich about hoarded wealth while they fraudulently cheated their laborers out of wages. *(Jam. 5:1-5)*
 - D. In fact throughout the New Testament; the wealthy are warned against the dangers of a wrong conception about wealth and the misuse of wealth.
 - E. Some of the different religious orders have gone so far as to make poverty a virtue and declare vows of poverty.
 - F. Therefore; inadvertently causing a stigma to be placed upon being rich and a badge of honor to be placed upon poverty.
- III. In our lesson text, we can see Jesus attacking the old mind set of the long held views of the religious people.
 - A. In the previous chapter, just prior to entering Jericho; Jesus healed blind Bartimaeus, a beggar; who was probably one of the poorest people in the city. The people praised God for it.
 - B. Once Jesus has entered and passed through Jericho, He ministered to Zacchaeus, one of the wealthiest men in the city; and the people complained.
 - C. This prompted Jesus to explain why Zacchaeus was just as much in need of His ministry as Bartimaeus. *(vs. 9-10)*
 - D. The inference is that Bartimaeus was as much a sinner as Zacchaeus. Even though Zacchaeus contemporaries called him a sinner, Jesus never did. He knew that both were in need of the same thing.

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- IV. Jesus continued to explain Zacchaeus eligibility, through a parable, to the crowd. In the process, He corrects two misconceptions about the Kingdom: God's plan for the wealth in the Kingdom and that the Kingdom would immediately appear in Jerusalem. (Vs. 11-27)
- V. The results of the parables reveal much about the Kingdom.
- A. The Lord servants did not go and hide between the walls of the temple in His absence; but they went into the market place and traded.
 - B. They were given a command to occupy until the Lord returned. Occupy not only means to secure what you have, but it means to busy oneself with trade in order to increase.
 - C. Even though the rest of the citizens rebelled against the Lord; those in whom he had given money was expected to increase the Lord's initial investment with them.
 - D. The Lord's servants prospered because their assignment was God's business, therefore capable of overcoming evil.
 - E. The Lord upon His return gave His servants authority over cities in direct proportion to the return of their investment and gain.
 - F. The Lord did not destroy his enemies until he had placed His servants over the cities.
 - G. In order for the Lord to secure His kingdom, He needs trusted and wise servants.
- VI. Some of the lessons of the parable reveal principles of the Kingdom.
- A. The physical manifestation of the Kingdom would not come immediately but over a period of time.
 - B. The Kingdom was not just about Jerusalem, but about other cities all over the world.
 - C. Even though the rebellious controlled the market place, we are expected to go in and trade and gain authority.
 - D. Rich people like Zacchaeus, needs to be saved also. Their salvation will allow them to help change their cities by practicing the Kingdom of God Economics. When Zacchaeus was converted, he used his wealth to help change the condition of the poor. The Kingdom of God was manifesting and impacting the market place of that city, along with the citizens of that city.
 - a. Upon being converted, he immediately brought God's ethics to the market place.
 - b. He made restitutions to all the people who had been defrauded.
 - c. He gave half of his wealth to the poor.
 - d. He impacted the city of Jericho in way that many poor and people of means couldn't or wouldn't.
 - e. He brought a sense of restoration and reconciliation to the city.
 - f. Redeemed wealth has a key role in God's plans to establish His kingdom on earth.

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- g. Before Zacchaeus conversion, his wealth was an object of contempt, yet when he was freed from the spirit of greed, his wealth became a powerful weapon against the evil motivation that previously controlled him.
 - h. When Zacchaeus announced that he would give half of his wealth to the poor, Bartimaeus might have been one of the recipients.
- VII. Jesus was never against the rich. He never pitted the rich against the poor.
- A. Jesus knew that the love of money is the root of all evil. (*1 Tim. 6:10*)
 - B. Jesus knew that men should not trust in uncertain riches but God, who gives all things to richly enjoy. (*1 Tim. 6:17*)
 - C. Jesus knew that the wealthy should do good and be rich in good works by being ready to be generous and share their wealth. (*1 Tim. 6:18*)
 - D. Jesus knew that wealth has a mission. This is what the rich young ruler did not understand and Zacchaeus did.
 - E. This is why the first social action of the church in Acts was to take care of the poor that were among them. They appointed men that were honest, full of the Holy Ghost, and full of Wisdom. (*Acts 6:3*) The church grew after they appointed these men to handle this business. (*Acts 6:7*)

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