

Dgroup Discussion Guide for September 10, 2017 Radical: Really? Really!

Scripture: Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through. ²And there was a man called by the name of Zaccheus; he was a chief tax collector and he was rich. ³Zaccheus was trying to see who Jesus was, and was unable because of the crowd, for he was small in stature. ⁴So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree in order to see Him, for He was about to pass through that way. ⁵When Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, “Zaccheus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” ⁶And he hurried and came down and received Him gladly. ⁷When they saw it, they all began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” ⁸Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will give back four times as much.” ⁹And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Zaccheus was a tax collector. In their time, Zaccheus was the worst of the worst. He was a Jew but he had collected taxes that was being levied for Rome. In those times, these tax collectors would collect more than what was taxed and the excess they would pocket. That is why when Jesus told Zaccheus that He would be in his house today, the crowd had reacted negatively.

Jesus' reputation had preceeded Him, and Zaccheus was looking forward to see Jesus. That is why as Jesus entered the city of Jericho, he had ran ahead in order to climb up the tree so that he could see Jesus. This shows that he really went out of his way to see Jesus, that he was really intent to meet Jesus. So that when Jesus came to the tree, Jesus stopped and looked up.

More often than not, we are looking for Jesus not realizing that Jesus is in fact looking for us. 2 Chronicles 16:19 says ***For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may support those whose heart is completely His.*** Jesus is looking for us, in the same way that He was aware of Zaccheus, He is aware of us searching for Him. He knew Zaccheus by name even though they had not been introduced. Likewise, He knows our name even before we know who He is.

The crowd following Jesus reacts negatively because they all knew who Zaccheus was and what he does. In their eyes, he is a sinner and not worthy for Jesus to visit his house. He was after all a tax collector, a traitor in their eyes.

But in Matthew 9:9-12 we see Jesus as he called Matthew, who like Zaccheus was a tax collector. He had called him to become one of His disciples. Also in this story we see that later on Jesus was seen dining with other tax collectors and sinners. The Pharisees commented about this to the disciples “Why is your teacher eating with tax collectors?” To this Jesus explains ***it is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick.*** It is not the healthy who need to see a doctor, it is the sick. Likewise it is the sinners who need a Savior. Jesus says ***He has come to seek and to save that which was lost.*** Until we realize that we are lost because of our sin, then we have no need for a Savior. Because apart from what Jesus did on the cross there is no eternity to look forward to. That is why there is a need for us to become radical.

When Jesus went to Zaccheus' house, that was a radical move. But Jesus emphasizes that He came for the sick and the lost. Isaiah 61:1 says ***The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.*** Who needs to hear the good news? The sick, the poor and the sinners. That is why in Luke 7:22 ***And He answered and said to them, Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have the gospel preached to them.***

REPENTANCE

- In the Synoptic Gospels it means “*metanoia*” which means turning away from sin. There are 2 requisites of repentance:
 - o Turn away from evil

- Turn to good
- It is a change of mind that translates to a change of behavior. A radical change of mind and a radical change in behavior.
- In the case of Zaccheus, we see that upon meeting Jesus he declares to give half of his possessions to the poor and then four times as much to the people he has defrauded. It was in Zaccheus' encounter with Jesus that he had a change of heart, and then repentance in him motivated him to have a change in behavior. Jesus did not ask him to do this but it was because of his change of heart and out of repentance that he chose to make this decision.

RESTITUTION

- The act of returning what has wrongfully been taken or replacing what has been lost or damaged and the Divine restoration of all things in their original order.
- This was not something new to the Jews but rather something that they had practiced even in the Old Testament. For example in Exodus 22:1 ***If a man steals an ox or a sheep and slaughters it or sells it, he shall pay five oxen for the ox and four sheep for the sheep.*** Also see Exodus 22:4, Exodus 22:7, 2 Samuel 12:5-6, Proverbs 6:31
- Zaccheus after his repentance, was finding a way to do restitution for the wrongs that he has done. He committed to pay back those he had defrauded.

REGENERATION

- This word literally means a "new birth". The Greek word so rendered *palingenesis* is used by classical writers with reference to the changes produced by the return of spring.
- This is a new beginning. A new beginning in Jesus Christ.
- In the story of Zaccheus, Jesus says after Zaccheus makes a commitment for restitution, ***Today salvation has come to this house.***
- Romans 6:23 says ***for the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*** We are all guilty of sin, thus the payment for this should be eternal damnation, eternally and perpetual separation from God because of our sin BUT God's free gift is salvation, eternal life through Jesus Christ. But there must be restitution to be made because the law is there that if a person sins there must be a payment of blood. 1 John 2: 2 says ***He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*** He is the peace offering for our sins. That is why 2 Corinthians 5:17 says ***Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.***

But it does not stop here. Jesus did not save us just so that we can go to heaven. We were saved because we have to fulfill the Great Commission – which is to make disciples. . . beginning with our family.

APPLICATION:

Patiently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage's lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

1. Is there still something today that you need to repent for? Is there still sin in your life that is preventing you from enjoying freedom from sin through Jesus Christ?
2. Is there something that we must make restitution for? Are we being convicted to return, replace or payback anything we still owe?
3. Do we truly live in a new beginning as followers of Jesus Christ? How are we living out this new life? Can we commit to radically live changed lives in order to become witnesses for Jesus?
4. Are we making disciples? Are we obeying the command to Go and Make Disciples? Are we discipling our families? Are we being disciplined?

PRAYERS:

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.