

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of May 31, 2015

Luke 19:1-10

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ² A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷ All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸ Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹ Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

New International Version (NIV)

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 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.

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.

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

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. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Connection Questions:

1. How does the way we view our money depict the values we have?
2. Does our consumerist culture encourage us to view money in an irresponsible way?
3. Why do you think Zacchaeus climbed the sycamore tree?
4. Discuss how tax collectors were perceived in the Jewish culture. Are there any indicators in the Zacchaeus story that express he felt guilty or remorseful in how he viewed his money?
5. Seemingly at the end of the Zacchaeus story his attitude toward his wealth had changed. Discuss what you think the changes were.

6. It can be difficult to change our living patterns that we have developed over numerous years. Discuss why it can be difficult and what needs to take place in order to change our living patterns.

7. Simplifying our lives from a Christian perspective requires a growing relationship with Christ. It is that relationship that gives direction to the demands and choices that are placed upon us. How would a mature relationship change the way we view our wealth? How are our faith and our financial issues connected?

8. Talk about steps you could take in your personal life that could help you have a healthier approach to your financial issues.