

“ADJ - Cross, Sin, & Repentance Part 3” (5-1-22)

Introduction: Responding to the cross - **Repentance, Confession, Restitution** (Sermon - Forgiveness 2/21)

Luke 19:1-10 (ESV)

(1) Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. (2) And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. (3) And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. (4) So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. (5) And 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 and came down and received him joyfully. (7) And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” (8) And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” (9) And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. (10) For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

1) Repentance

Repentance (when done rightly) is renouncing - heading in a new direction

Peter preaching on repentance . . . (Acts 3:19-20)

Acts 3:19 (ESV)

Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out . . .

Note: Repentance - a new direction! Sin is removed - blotted out - done away with!

Repentance does away with the old and enables us to move in a new direction . . . (Peter continues)

Acts 3:20 (ESV)

that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus

Note: Sin dealt with yes, but it produces times of refreshing in God’s presence

Consider: Jesus coming to Zacchaeus’ home & what Joy this produces . . .

Luke 19:5-6 (ESV)

(5) And 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 and came down and received him joyfully.

Note: He hurried to come to Jesus with great joy!

Repentance - Finding Joy in Godly Grief . . .

2 Corinthians 7:9-10 (ESV)

(9) As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. (10) For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.

- **Paul** - “God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance” (Romans 2:4)
- **Jesus** - “Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.” (Revelation 3:19)

Application: Don’t just watch Jesus from a distance - Come in close and see his correcting love that changes us & brings great joy!

2) Bear the fruits of Repentance - Confess & Restore

John the Baptist - preaching (true) repentance to Jews . . .

Luke 3:8 (ESV)

Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.

Paul describing the spread of the Gospel to Jews & Gentiles alike . . .

Acts 26:20 (ESV)

. . . declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.

Note: Don't be a Christian in name only - it ought to produce fruit!

Take note of how this worked specifically with Zacchaeus . . .

Luke 19:9-10 (ESV)

(9) And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. (10) For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

Note: Jesus makes the connection here - a despised outsider is now considered a "son of Abraham" because of his responsive heart.

Notice why Jesus says this about Him . . . (previous verse)

Luke 19:8 (ESV)

And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold."

Note: 2 keys (fruits) of repentance - Confession & Restoration

- **Confession** - "if I have defrauded - anyone of anything"
 - He is announcing his intention to deal with his sin personally & specifically!

1 John 1:7-9 (ESV)

(7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (8) If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

James 5:16a (ESV)

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.

Confession brings healing to me (the sinner) - it disarms the power & hold of sin - no more hiding & shame!

See what Zacchaeus does next (after committing to confession) . . .

- **Restoration** - "I restore it fourfold"

If **Confession** brings healing to me - **Restoration** works to bring healing to the other person (& possibly the relationship).

The Laws of Restitution - Exodus 22, Numbers 5, Leviticus 5

Leviticus 5:16 (ESV)

He shall also make restitution for what he has done amiss in the holy thing and shall add a fifth to it and give it to the priest. And the priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering, and he shall be forgiven.

Restitution - Doing what he can to restore, not just “washing his hands” of an old error or way of life: this flows from an encounter with Jesus, and finding joy in Jesus

- Many Christians struggle with this concept , I mean Jesus already paid it all, right?

2 Samuel 12:5-7a (ESV)

(5) Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, “As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, (6) and he shall **restore** the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.” (7) Nathan said to David, “**You are the man!**”

Note: Everyone believes in **restitution** - when they are the one who has suffered loss!

Bottom Line - Love works to restore . . .

Romans 13:8-10 (ESV)

(8) Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (9) For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (10) Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Note: Restitution - is not about “owing” its about **loving**.

- I don't pay back my debt to get something in return - they don't “owe” me a second chance
- I am participating with the good news of Jesus - God is a restorer & redeemer!

Romans 12:18 (ESV)

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Application: Let's learn to bear fruits in keeping with repentance - it brings healing & restoration!

Conclusion: Interesting Note - Zacchaeus name means: “pure one” (clear, transparent, nothing to hide!)

- That's the power of a life that is “responsive” to the cross!
- Repentance that bears real fruit - confession & restoration - produces a life of clarity, healing, & joy!