



**Sermon Series:** Cycle Breakers part 4

**Sermon Title:** From Greed to Grace

**Date:** 1/21/2024

**Luke 19:1-10**

Today, we will look at the life of Zacchaeus as he gives us one of the best examples in scripture of breaking the chains of destructive strongholds in his life. Zacchaeus was a man of action. He provides a great example of how he broke the chains of destruction in his life by meeting Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector. The Israelites considered tax collectors traitors. The tax collector's job was to do just what you think- collect taxes for Rome, and whatever tax collectors could collect above and beyond that, they could keep it for themselves.

When Zacchaeus met Jesus, he broke the stronghold in his life by repenting and turning from his sinful ways. A biblical definition of repentance is a **CHANGE OF MIND THAT RESULTS IN A CHANGE OF ACTION** - Specifically, a change of mind about who Jesus is. **Acts 26:20**

**BIG IDEA:** Cycle breakers take action and demonstrate repentance

We will see 3 positive changes that immediately took place in Zacchaeus' life, which helped him to break the strongholds and cycles in his life.

### **ATTITUDE**

Zacchaeus changed his attitude from that of a prideful overlord to that of a humble servant. He ran down the street and climbed a tree without concern for social expectations just to see Jesus.

Somewhere along the way, Zacchaeus heard about Jesus and was willing to humble himself just to catch a glimpse of him. Zacchaeus came to a place where he accepted the truth about the sin he committed against others and changed. He was no longer that prideful tax collector using the

system to steal people's money - He adopted the attitude of humility, turned to Jesus as his Lord, and chose to live life the way Jesus wanted him to.

## **ACTION**

Zacchaeus proved his inward change by his outward action. Up until this point, Zacchaeus was a taker. He grew extremely wealthy by taking from other people. But when he repented, he turned into a GIVER. Complete opposite direction. Zacchaeus chose to follow Jesus (**Luke 19:8**).

This multi-millionaire said that he would give half of his money away to the poor- that's significant in itself, but then he said whoever he cheated, he would pay them back 4 times what he took. Zacchaeus acted and gave away much, if not all of his money.

Repentance lets others know if our change of mind was genuine. It shows those people we interact with and God how genuine our change of mind is. And gives us, as followers of Jesus, the opportunity to demonstrate our repentance.

## **ALLEGIANCE**

Before he met Jesus, Zacchaeus' allegiance was to himself, and he used Rome and money as tools to advance himself. But all of that changed when Jesus called to him. Zacchaeus' allegiance changed from himself to Jesus. Jesus said, **For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.**" **Luke 19:10 NLT**

The passage implies that there was a conversation that took place between Jesus and Zacchaeus that changed Zacchaeus' allegiance from himself to God. Zacchaeus stood up and addressed Jesus as "Lord." He was no longer Lord in his own life. He came to that point that everyone must come to if they are going to have genuine, lasting change from destructive cycles in life, and it is to recognize Jesus as Lord - to see that we're lost, and he came to seek us out.

Notice that Jesus called Zacchaeus before he repented. Biblical repentance is changing your mind about your sin—no longer is sin something to toy with; it is something to be forsaken. It also changes your mind about Jesus Christ—who He is and how He views sin. Jesus is no longer to be mocked, discounted, or ignored; He is the savior to whom you cling; He is the Lord to be worshiped and adored.

### Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Is repentance more or less common today than in previous decades? Explain**
- **Is repentance more than just saying “sorry”? Why or why not?**
- **When you are faced with the recognition that you have sinned, are you quick to repent? Explain**
- **How do you respond to others who have sinned against you and are seeking your forgiveness? Are you quick to forgive?**