

SONGS OF THE SAVIOR
Wise Men Change Their Mind
Week 4 Advent December 24, 2023
Pastor Mike Popovich

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Matthew 2:10–12

Divine Message- Decide To Follow

The Bible is filled with people who had to change their minds.

The story of a rich young man seeking Jesus:

“You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.’” “All these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said. When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he became very sad because he was very wealthy.

Luke 18:20–23

Zacchaeus’ call to change his mind:

“Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.” 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.” Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.” Luke 19:5–9

Two Men, Both Called To Change Their Minds.

The rich young ruler was a wonderfully religious guy. Zacchaeus was a tax collector. In other words, he was a traitor to his people.

The Rich Young Ruler and Zacchaeus both have a divine calling to change their minds:

Jesus tells the Rich Young Ruler to “Sell everything you have and give to the poor.”

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

Matthew 6:24

Two men, both with a divine call to change their minds about who they are and what they serve.

Jesus gives the Rich Young Ruler a divine calling; the Bible says it made him sad.

Jesus gives Zacchaeus a divine calling, and the Bible says, “He came down at once and gladly welcomed him.”

Isn’t it interesting to think the Rich Young Ruler is offered life with Jesus, but Zacchaeus is merely offered dinner with Jesus? However, both of their decisions would change their lives in many different ways.

Both of them experienced the cost of being dedicated to their decision. In the end, one went away incredibly sad, and the other incredibly satisfied.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2