

Zacchaeus' Repentance

¹And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.²And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.³And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.⁴And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.⁵And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.⁶And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.⁷And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.⁸And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.⁹And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.¹⁰For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:1-10 KJV)

Jericho was the first city that the Israelites had entered and captured from the Promised Land. It was the city that was cursed and supposed not to be built. But it happened that it was built and what we found here that Jesus entered this city and ultimately the cursed city received the blessing of Jesus. People got saved in this visit of Jesus to the city of Jericho. In particular Zacchaeus and his family got saved as a fruit of this visit of Jesus.

Zacchaeus was a rich man, the chief tax collector, *¹And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.*” And from what we read from the story we come to understand that he was a cheater and extortionist using his job to make money out of greed and taking advantage of the people whom the law had put under his authority to exact tax from them.

Amazingly we found that Jesus called that sinner and entered his house. Truly the Lord came to seek and save those who are lost. *¹⁰For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.* But not only that; Jesus called Zacchaeus and entered his house because Zacchaeus showed signs of repentance. Man looks to the external appearance but God looks to the heart. Zacchaeus expressed and desire to see and meet the Lord out of his internal repentance; out of his willingness to turn away from his life of wickedness, back to God and to follow Christ ways. We can observe the following points about his repentance and as the following:

1. **He Took the initiative to see Jesus:** He was short but he climbed on a tree in order to avoid the crowd and to be able to see who Jesus is: *³And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.⁴And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.*” Zacchaeus used the opportunity to repent and to come back to God. Many people Jesus keep coming to their lives but they are not willing to give up their sins and use the opportunity to repent. See here that Zacchaeus was willing to repent. Even he was short, he climbed a tree to meet the Lord. Repentance is an opportunity from the Lord, use it, and not waste it, because it may not come to you.
2. **He obeyed the Lord immediately:** *⁵And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house.⁶And he made haste, and came down, and received*

him joyfully. Once the Lord spoke to him to come down, he obeyed immediately. Many people when God is calling they will answer the Lord, ‘Not this time,’ ‘I am busy,’ ‘May be next year,’ ‘Oh Lord, am a sinner,’ etc. Zacchaeus repentance was clear and he was not double minded when Jesus called him.

3. **He joyfully received Christ:** *⁶And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.* Christ when he wants to come into your life and enter your house and your family is a blessing to you and it will be for your own good. Many people they are afraid when God is calling them and they have sadness and fear. But Zacchaeus showed his repentance when he received Christ joyfully and was glad to hear from Jesus, *“for to day I must abide at thy house.”* For Christ to abide in your house means that you need to surrender your own life and will in full to HIM.
4. **He did not justified his sins and wrong doing:** The people murmured when they saw Jesus entering Zacchaeus house, *⁷And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.*” Here Zacchaeus heard that and he did not justified himself or spoke wrong against the people who criticized the Lord. What the people spoke about Zacchaeus is correct, being a sinner, and he accepted that. He did not deny or justify his sins. Repentance is to accept all your sins and not to retaliate when you are faced with them.
5. **Zacchaeus corrected his bad testimony:** Zacchaeus recognized that his sins has brought a bad thing upon the Lord testimony, therefore he immediately took the initiative to correct his own wrong doing. *⁸And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.* Those who do not repent when they hear other speaking about their sins, instead of they will repent, they will fight with the people who are facing them with the truth.
6. **Zacchaeus willingly gave to God what is due to Him:** Christ in *Luke 18* He met the rich young man and the following had happened, *²²Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.²³And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich.*” (Luke 18:22-23 KJV) It might reach the ears of Zacchaeus what Jesus spoke to that rich man and Zacchaeus was willingness to give spontaneously to the poor. *⁸And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor;* Zacchaeus’ giving not to cover up his sin but to pay back to God and to do willingly what His Word declare. Many people they offer food and make banquet to cover up the cheating and corruption that they are living in and that is not repentance. Sins are forgiven by the blood of Jesus and salvation received only upon repentance.
7. **Zacchaeus willingly restored what he had cheated or stolen:** *⁸and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold.*” Zacchaeus was willing to bear the consequences of his sins and was willing to compensate those whom he cheated in accordance to the Word of God, *“If a man shall steal an ox, or a sheep, and kill it, or sell it; he shall restore five oxen for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep.”* (Exodus 22:1 KJV)
8. **Zacchaeus was mindful that he and his family to be saved:** *⁹And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.* Zacchaeus recognized that his greed and love of money will bring his family to destruction. *“He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.”* (Proverbs 15:27 KJV) He knew that he needs to repent

so that curse will not fall on his children. In his repentance he got the opportunity to teach his children through the good example of living honestly and in contentment, away from greed, extortion and the love of money. Parents who repent are the best teachers for their children. They are the children of Abraham in faith and deeds to raise up their children in a godly way as God said about Abraham. ¹⁸*Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?*¹⁹ *For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.*” (Genesis 18:18-19 KJV)

My dear and beloved: The meaning of Zacchaeus is pure. God wants you to be pure. Your name seems of good meaning. Your life’s testimony should also look good and pleasant to God. Therefore commit yourself to the calling of God and to the spiritual principles that you read in this message as you repent and agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your word that showed me clearly your way of life that you need me to follow. Lord I repent from the following sins _____.* *Lord I am willing to pay back and compensate _____.* *Lord come and abide in my life and house. I commit my life to live for you and to serve you. I thank you and praise you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

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