

Life Group Notes
Sunday 29 January 2017

Title: The Tax Man & Jesus

Speaker: Sean Green

Passage: Luke 19:1-10

Context: Jericho, Passover & Prophetic hope

Jericho's was located on an important trade route to Jerusalem, making it a wealthy city. This created opportunities for lucrative taxation for the Romans. Tax Collection was done by so called 'tax farmers', locals tasked with raising undisclosed amounts of tax for the Roman governor. Tax Collectors were viewed as collaborators; they were both despised and wealthy. This encounter happened during the Passover festival, which remembered God releasing his people from oppression through a righteous champion. The Jews also lived with a prophetic hope of a future Messiah; a righteous champion who would restore Gods people to their former glory.

Zacchaeus' story: Zacchaeus was a rich & despised tax collector. The locals shut him out from Jesus, yet his curiosity forces him to run ahead and climb a tree. Jesus notices him, takes the initiative and invites himself to stay in his home. The people grumble about this, yet follow. At his home, Zacchaeus stands up and promises to give away half of his wealth and repay back four times what was cheated, effectively declaring himself bankrupt. Jesus approves & declares that Zacchaeus is "a Son of Abraham".

Did you notice? Seeing the gospel

- Jesus: Hostility Transfer. Costly love & acceptance. New status conferred. He restores & declares before anything is done (Grace) Shows compassion. Oppression lifted. Lost found
- Zacchaeus: receiving changes Heart from Christ. Traitor responds with costly love to his community. His public declaration means he can be held to account. Oppressor's heart is changed.

Suggested questions:

- 1 Did you notice any other Gospel truth in this story?
- 2 How has Christ's radical love changed you in loving your community?
- 3 Why do we grumble when Christ dwells with others?