



September 13, 2009
"Lightning Does Strike Twice"
Luke 19, Matthew 19, Luke 3, Mark 12

group member page

Getting to know me

1. Growing up as a child, were you aware of parents contributing to the church significantly, or minimally, or was it not even on the radar? Or, perhaps money was a subject that wasn't discussed around children.
2. What was your first regular job that paid you money? What did you do with that money?

Into the Bible

Case 1-- Zacchaeus

1. Verse 2 says, "He was a chief tax collector and was rich." But he was also eager enough to see Jesus that he climbed a tree to catch a glimpse of him. If, as Jesus said, it is hard for the rich to enter the kingdom, what do you suppose was going on in Zacchaeus' heart?
2. Verse 6—why do you think Zacchaeus would receive Jesus "joyfully?"
3. If Z. was not saved by works (giving to the poor and repaying those whom he had defrauded) why did Jesus put such importance on what he did?

Case 2—the rich, young man

4. How would you describe this person as opposed to Zacchaeus?
5. This man's question, "What do I still lack?" implies that he realizes there is something else in his life besides following the law that is lacking in order to know that he has eternal life. Have you ever sensed that same feeling? When?
6. How would you describe the core issue in this man's life? Was there something in you that had to be thrown away before you came to Jesus?

Case 3—John the Baptist's response to "What shall we do?"

7. John was preaching repentance (vs. 3). From the responses that he gives to these people, what kind of repentance was he calling for?
8. Read James 2:14-23. What impact does your faith have on the way you use the finances and resources that you have?

Case 4—The widow’s “mite.”

9. What percentage of her resources did this woman give? Would you say that it was a wise or foolish decision?

10. What would contributing “out of your abundance” mean to you? What would it mean for your lifestyle to go beyond that?

Application Questions

1. What impact has your commitment to Jesus had on your giving to the church? (Case #1)
2. What impact have your possessions had on your spiritual life? (Case #2)
3. How do you feel about the church instructing you to handle your money? (Case #3)
4. How do you think Jesus evaluates the amount of your giving to the church?
5. Should your giving be to the church only? Most among several charities? One of a list? “It’s self-serving for the church to talk about giving money to the church?”
6. Why is money such a private issue in our culture?