

MESSAGE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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This week Lance Ward, Congregational Care Pastor, delivered a powerful message from the book of Luke, comparing and contrasting Jesus' encounters with the rich young ruler and Zacchaeus, looking at the reputation, status, societal positions, religious commitment, and more to understand what is important to Jesus. The treasure we have in Jesus is the greatest wealth in this world.

SCRIPTURE

LUKE 18:18-25 NRSV

¹⁸ A certain ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁹ Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ²⁰ You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery. You shall not murder. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother.'" ²¹ He replied, "I have kept all these since my youth." ²² When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." ²³ But when he heard this, he became sad, for he was very rich. ²⁴ Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

LUKE 19:1-10 NET

"Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. ² Now a man named Zacchaeus was there; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to get a look at Jesus, but being a short man he could not see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, because Jesus was going to pass that way. ⁵ And when Jesus came to that place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, because I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he came down quickly and welcomed Jesus joyfully. ⁷ And when the people saw it, they all complained, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." ⁸ But Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, half of my possessions I now give to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone of anything, I am paying back four times as much!" ⁹ Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this household, because he too is a son of Abraham! ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out from Lance's message?
2. Read Luke 18:18-25 and 19:1-10. Compare and contrast the rich young ruler and Zacchaeus. (Go verse by verse and consider status, motivation, reputation, response, etc.) *Use the chart on the next page*

RICH YOUNG RULER

ZACCHAEUS

3. Imagine yourself in the story of Zacchaeus. What would be your response to the interaction of Jesus and Zacchaeus?
4. Imagine yourself in the story of the rich young ruler. What would be your response to Jesus' words?
5. Where do you see people living like the rich young ruler? Have there been times in your life where something (any "gods") came between you and following Jesus?
6. What would pursuing Jesus like Zacchaeus look like in your life?
7. How can we pray for you?

PRAYER

Ask God to search your heart for anything that is between you and Jesus; spend time confessing whatever that is. Pray for an attitude like Zacchaeus and to be satisfied by the response that Jesus wants to be your friend, your treasure, your everything.