

Go Deeper 30th October 2022

Zacchaeus and baptism

Not too much theology this week, but as ever some questions to chew on, either on your own, in a small group, or with friends and family. Why not over dinner!

Reparation and making amends

In Luke 19.8, Zacchaeus says "if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." He makes amends for past mistakes of corruption and greed.

- Have you ever made amends, reached out to put right something you got wrong?
- How did you feel before, and afterwards?
- Has anyone ever reached out to you to make amends? How did that feel?
- Is there anyone you need to reach out to and make amends?

Reaching Out

Tax collectors were outcasts back then, everyone knew they were on the wrong side, working with the invading Romans and part of the system that treated their people badly. And yet, Jesus made a point of going to Zacchaeus and eating with him, and in the end, Zacchaeus turned his life around.

- Who would be the outcasts today?
- Have you ever experienced the power of hospitality, ever felt blessed and loved by someone choosing to be with you?
- Is there anyone you might be called to connect with over food, or a drink? This could be as an individual, family or small group.

Baptism.

- What do you think happens when we get baptised? Why do we do it? Have you been baptised?

As ever, if you have any questions, do get back to me, I'm always happy to help!

Every Blessing,
Rob

Deeper Stuff

Not many answers from me this week – the questions and challenges this passage raises are so personal.

'What Would Zacchaeus Do?'

A blog post from Jennie Pollock, reviewing Ben Lindsay's book 'We Need to Talk About Race.' Jennie explores Lindsay's use of the Zacchaeus story, connecting it to our role in making restitution for slavery. Worth a read, as is the book.

https://thinktheology.co.uk/blog/article/what_would_zacchaeus_do

Baptism

Ask N. T. Wright from March 3rd 2022, baptism.

<https://askntwrightanything.podbean.com/e/107-baptism-what-happens-should-we-baptise-infants/>

Another go-to podcast for a bit of insight on tricky topics. I love what Tom says about faith being a collective endeavour, that we never each fully understand those big, complicated creeds, but that we stand and say them as those people who together are shaped by them, and in baptism welcome new people to that collective faith.