

RESTITUTION

SCRIPTURAL LESSON: *Luke 19:1-10*

GOSPEL TRUTH:

The wicked borrows and does not pay back, but the righteous is generous and gives (*Psalm 37:21*). Freely you have received, freely give.

GOLDEN SCRIPTURE:

Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he who loveth another has fulfilled the law (Romans 13:8).

THE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH DOCTRINES:

1. We should all pay our debts (*Romans 13:7-8*).
2. Jesus paid a huge price for all mankind. We should praise Him and serve Him (*John 3:16; I Corinthians 6:20*).
3. Give with a cheerful heart (*II Corinthians 9:7*).
4. Let Jesus work on you (*Philippians 2:13*).
5. If you lend money to your brethren, do not charge them interest (*Exodus 22:25*).
6. We all need to be accountable for our own actions (*I Corinthians 6:7*).

BACKGROUND SETTING:

Zacchaeus was the Chief of the publicans and he was a rich man. There was a crowd of people who came to see Jesus and Zacchaeus was one of them. He sought to see Jesus, but because of his small stature, he could not. So, what did short Zacchaeus do? He climbed up a sycamore tree; for he knew Jesus would

pass that way. When Jesus looked up, he saw Zacchaeus in the tree and said, “. . . come down; for to day I must abide at thy house” (*Luke 19:5*). Jesus knew Zacchaeus by name just as He knows all of our names (*Jeremiah 1:5*).

We find that Zacchaeus joyfully came down from the tree (I would too if Jesus called me by my name). What did Zacchaeus say? He said, “*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*” (*Luke 19:8*). Terrific! Jesus did not tell him what to do. He did it from his heart. He wanted to be right in the sight of God (*Deuteronomy 6:18*). Jesus said, “*This day is salvation come to this house. . . .*” (*Luke 19:9*) “*For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which is lost*” (*Luke 19:10*).

LESSON SUMMARY:

Today, we read how Zacchaeus made restitution. In doing so, he repented to the Lord in his own way. In making his way up the tree, Zacchaeus symbolized the true intent of his heart: to seek Jesus. That is why Jesus chose him out of all the people in the crowd. Sound familiar? Jesus chose us because we believe that we have the truth and because signs follow the true Church. Like Zacchaeus, we too at some point in our lives sought the truth and searched for Jesus and found Him. Jesus called us, we who belong to the Body of Christ, to accept Him and serve Him. We owe Jesus everything and we need to give Him back His due. He provides for our daily needs, He blesses us with our health and safety day in and day out. We must repay Him not only in word but also by praying for one another and by serving Him. Let us labor in God’s vineyard and be all that we can for Jesus! Like Zacchaeus, we need to give back. We must not be selfish. Have a mind like Christ and love one another because we all belong to Christ. One day Jesus will return for us. So, we need to be ready. Just as Zacchaeus sought Jesus by climbing up a tree, we should also go through extreme lengths to please God because without Him we are nothing. Praise His Holy Name: Jesus!

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