



## A Generous Hospitality (Luke 19:1-10) Welcome to the Table pt. 4 Pastor Tim Peck

### THE BIG IDEA

Generosity restores us to the table of God's family, changes our greed into giving, and transforms our wrongs into restitution.

### OPENING

- Has anyone ever tried to cheat you out of money? Share with your group what happened.
- When was the last time you really wanted something that you didn't need? How did you deal with that desire?

### DIGGING DEEPER

- Read Luke 18:18-27. How does this story (especially vv. 24-25) set up the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19:1-10? How are Jesus' instructions to the rich young ruler in v. 22 different than what Zacchaeus does in 19:9? What does this reveal about Jesus' command to the rich young ruler?
- Zacchaeus is described as a "chief tax collector" in Luke 19:2. According to Bible scholar Mark Strauss, this detail "*indicates that Zacchaeus is responsible for a broader region—perhaps the custom on goods passing between Perea and Judea—with subordinates working for him. It is not surprising, therefore, that Luke identifies him as a wealthy individual. Tax collectors were despised in Israel because they were viewed as extortionists and Roman collaborators.*"<sup>1</sup> Tax collectors were considered so dishonest that they were not permitted to give legal testimony in court.<sup>2</sup> How does this background explain the people's reaction in Luke 19:7?

---

<sup>1</sup>Mark Strauss, "Luke," *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Background Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002).

<sup>2</sup>John Lightfoot, *A Commentary on the Gospels from the Talmud and Hebraica* (Baker Books, 1979).

- Zacchaeus is often viewed as a man whose life was entirely given over to greed. The New Testament word translated “greed” means “*a strong desire to acquire more and more material possessions or to possess more things than other people have, all irrespective of need.*”<sup>3</sup> What does Jesus say about greed in Luke 12:15? Why is greed dangerous?
- Read Leviticus 5:16 and Numbers 5:7. What kind of restitution for cheating do these Old Testament laws require? How is Zacchaeus’ announcement in Luke 19:8 different than what was legally required? What do you think this says about Zacchaeus?
- Jesus declares that Zacchaeus is a “son of Abraham” in 19:9. Read Romans 4:16 and Galatians 3:7. What do these verses reveal about the identity of the children of Abraham? What is required for a person to be a son or daughter of Abraham?

## PUTTING IT TO WORK

- Has greed ever been a problem in your life? How so?
- In the Bible giving is the antidote to greed. What’s one way you can generously give this week to someone who’s in need?

## PRAYER REQUESTS

---

<sup>3</sup>J. P. Louw and Eugene A. Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (United Bible Societies, 1989).