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Zaccheus

Wyatt Sawyer

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"ZACCHAEUS"

"Cleanse".....

INT. Ever pray for forgiveness of your "secret sins" as David did in Ps. 19:12.
How do you know you've committed "secret sins" (-meaning hidden, unknown or unrevealed)

Ans: Don't. Obviously a condition of IGNORANCE prevails.
??? Want to know about them if you have them?

A CHALLENGE: I may convict you of one tonight, unless you are extremely sharp in the scriptures and the interpretations by our brethren.

I. THE SIN IS THE SIN OF STEREOTYPING. What's that???

- a. Defined: "An impression or image of another based on common social understanding which is generally accepted by the group."
(1. Examples: All Scotchmen are stingy. All Texans brag a lot.
All IRS agents are out to "get" us. All politicians are crooked.
- b. STEREOTYPING ^{of or more} man involves bearing false witness. ^{CAN!} Causes: Misunderstanding. Misinformation. Unverified information. Incomplete information.
Ill. Matt. 19:18 based on Ex. 20:16. Deut. 5:20. Also Prov. 6:19.

II. CASE IN POINT: LITTLE JEW IN JERICHO who found success in life up a tree.

- A. What is YOUR view of this Chief of Tax collectors in Luke 19:1-10.???
Give you three choices:
 1. Zacchaeus cheated a little bit now and then because "every body did it."
 2. Zacchaeus, being a Chief tax-collector, was really very bad & crooked. *Sermonable*
 3. Zacchaeus was an honest and upright official in a dirty business.
STEREOTYPE THEN: All Jews who collect taxes for the hated-Romans are dirty, despicable and doomed. *Read B.W. JOHNSONS: P. 298. VS. 8.*
- MY BURDEN: This lesson to prove that our historical-stereotype of Zacchaeus is falacious and untrue. He was a very good man in a bad situation.

III. JERICHO: A beautiful oasis of palm trees in a barren land. 17½ miles NE of Jer. A customs-center: on the far East to Mediterrianian seacoast trade route. One of Rome's most lucrative posts of entry into Palestime. Prosperous !!!

IV. ZACCHAEUS: A Jew. NAME: means "Pure, clean, Just! RICH JEW. VERY rich Jew.

NOTE: MANY men, then and now, have difficulty handling power and position of authority. MANY crooked. Even robbed widows. A STEREOTYPE: All? Tax-Collectors are crooked and ANYONE connected to them or the business, MUST BE CROOKED and DISHONEST. "Everyone else is !!!"

MY DUTY, as a Christian, to defend Zacchaeus, if he was INDEED a righteous man - in a generally most-profitable and highly-despised PROFESSION.

FIRST REBUTTAL: All high Jewish or Roman officials were not rotten:

- CASES IN POINT:
- 1. Matthew was a Tax collector. Chosen to write book. Also was a loved and trusted Apostle of Christ. Ma. 9:9.
 - 2. CORNELIUS: Roman officer. Acts 10. Not a Christian. Not a Jew. Was: devout, feared God, gave much alms to Jews, prayed a lot.
 - 3. ROMAN CENTURION at Capernium. Luke 7:1-5. Jews begged Jesus to heal his servant-whom he loved. He loves "our nation" and has "built us a synagogue." Good man. Not Chr. Not a Jew.

V. **LESSON:** Present the facts and YOU decide. SIX bits of evidence: maybe 7.

1. Most rich men not attracted to roaming-preachers demanding "Universal self-denial and morti-fi-cation". Matt. 16:24-27. Ill. Rich Young Ruler. Matt. 19.
2. Most rich men don't SEEK righteousness and purity. I Cor. 1:26. Zacchaeus did. BELIEVE: Crowd deliberately crowded Zach out. Pay-back! So, he climbed a tree !!
3. Zacchaeus not shy nor embarrassed to fellowship Jesus. Good man. Comfortable. He made a spectacle of himself for the Lord! WHEN...last time you did such??
4. Vs. 8. "Half my goods I give to the poor." Means willingly!! Not: "will start" being nicer. Greek: "I have done...." MEANING: I give. I am giving. I have given. All permissible in the Gr. word. Not forced to give !!
5. Vs. 8. "IF I have cheated any man I will restore the theft 4-fold!" This not the proposition of an evil and dishonest man! Two reasons:
6. A MATTER OF LAW: Impossible for him to do the above!!
If oppressed-victims could prove extortion on his part, the Law of First-Claim" would strip him of his wealth! 4-1 !! Nothing left to GIVE.....

Note: He could GIVE to the poor--only-- if he had inherited-wealth or "cleanly-earned" wealth. He knew he was safe from ALL claims or charges!! Re-paying offended tax-payers would have bankrupted him.

CONCLUSION: He was a just and good man --as were Matthew, Cornelium and the Capernaum-Centurion. Wealthy! Influential. Powerful....but for GOOD!!

7th proof: Jesus IDENTIFIED him as a "Son" of Abraham. V. 9.
Greek: He "IS"! Not: he will become. A man of great faith!

ADDENDUM: What happened to Zacchaeus? No one knows.

I believe: (want to believe). He did two things in the next 60 days.

1. Stood by the Cross at the crucifixion in Jer - he in pain and supreme agony for Jesus, his Savior. In tears. Encouraged Jesus!

2. Enlisted in the Lord's spiritual-kingdom (the church of Christ) on the day of Pentecost. Maybe the first baptized of the 3,000.

Acts 2:38.

INV. Could Zacchaeus speak today, I believe he would urge and encourage

all in this audience to become Christians for salvation!

all be sure your relationship to God is in good standing!

all serious-believers be closely identified to a body of Christ and busily engaged in every good work for Christ !!!