

Kicks & Conversations

Part 2: Black Air Force 1s / Zacchaeus

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

It's so easy to reject those who reject us, and to hurt those who have hurt us. In an interaction Jesus has with a man named Zacchaeus, we see Jesus take a completely different approach.

MESSAGE NOTES AND HIGHLIGHTS

- The story of Zacchaeus | Luke 19:1-10
 - The cycle of rejection: We want to reject those who reject us.
 - The only way to break the cycle of rejection is acceptance.
 - "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." | Luke 19:9-10
 - "Salvation is not a mere change in our status, but a real transformation of our lives." | Brian Zahnd
 - Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? | Matthew 7:3
 - How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? | Matthew 7:4
 - You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye. | Matthew 7:5
 - Before worrying about everyone else, stop and allow scripture to speak to you first.
 - You'll have the most positive impact on others by allowing God to first transform you and your life, instead of just hoping he transforms everybody else.
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Zacchaeus, from Luke 19, is someone who was viewed as a traitor by those in his community and was most likely rejected by them. **How do you normally deal with people you can't stand, you might strongly disagree with, or have a hard time getting along with?**
2. Rejection often creates a cycle of wounds--you're rejected, it wounds you, you shut down or reject others in return, and you hurt people back. **Have you seen this cycle play out in your life? In what ways have you experienced a cycle of rejection and/or hurt?**
3. **What can we learn from the way Jesus approaches and interacts with Jesus? What do we learn about God? What do we learn about how to view and treat each other?**
4. Additional/alternative questions to ask based on the story of Zacchaeus:
 - 1) **In what ways am I Zacchaeus?**
Examples/follow-ups: In what ways have I chosen to get ahead no matter what?
In what ways have I drifted from the values and life God has for me?
In what ways am I acting out of the wounds of rejection?
In what ways do I need to make amends for ways I've wronged someone?
 - 2) **In what ways am I the crowd around Zacchaeus?**
Who in my life am I judging for what they've done?
Why do I have such a hard time accepting God's grace for someone else?
Who am I rejecting or excluding or avoiding that Jesus would embrace?
 - 3) **What is God teaching me about himself through this passage?**