

How the Grinch Stole Christmas
Phos Community Church
Sunday December 2, 2012
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Who or what's the Grinch that could steal your Christmas?

My heart can be broken or shrunk and when it is, it often pumps out poisonous infections that inflict pain, hurt and suffering on others and on me.

"There are two sources of unhappiness
[*shrunk* / *broken-heartedness*] in life.
One is not getting what you want;
the other is getting it."

George Bernard Shaw
[*italics added by Jeff Fuson*]

Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through.

And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus.
He was a chief tax collector and was rich.

And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way.

And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him,

“Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.”

So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully.

And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.”

And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord,
“Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the
poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I
restore it fourfold.”

And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Christmas [literally Christ Mass = Worship Centered
on Christ] comes when:

-We seek Jesus

-We accept His invitation joyfully and allow Him to come into our lives and homes

-We honor Him as Lord and choose to live generously in response to His love for us

Four world-views that are 'heart shrinkers' that keep you from letting Christmas come:

► I can't _____ because I've been bullied by _____ and they say _____.
This could have been Zacchaeus' story.

▶ I've got it all figured out, and I can handle life on my own, unlike some other people who never seem to get it right.

Luke 18:9 / Isaiah 64:6

▶ I'm too grown up and too busy to get into Christ-Mass.

Luke 18:15-17

▶ I've got a portfolio to manage and a career to take care of and I just cannot fit Christ-mass into my life right now."

Luke 18:18-28

How to 'De-Grinchify' your Christmas:

▶ Go truly looking for Jesus this Christmas like Zacchaeus did. Luke 19:3-4

▶ Joyfully accept His invitation to do life with Him as if you were a child. Luke 18:17 & 19:6

▶ Admit that you need forgiveness from Christ like the publican in Luke 18:13.

▶ Take Him as your greatest treasure and not your 'stuff'. Luke 18:22

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