

Community Group Questions

“But Now I See”

Luke 18:35 – 9:10

March 11, 2018

Warm-up: Have you ever thought you were “seeing” or understanding a situation one way, only to find out later you were totally focused on the wrong value or thing?

Luke 19:3 Thomas a Kempis said, “If...you seek Jesus in all things, you will surely find Him. Likewise, if you seek yourself, you will find yourself—to your own ruin.” Is this true in life?

Comparing the poor blind man and the wealthy Zacchaeus, who do you most readily identify with in outlook? Poor, begging through life, an outsider looking in, or, super rich – but running a cartel, predatory practices, inside the city but an outsider socially and despised? What type of person is easier to forgive?

Relative to the tax collector Zacchaeus, Pastor Chuck compared self-esteem vs. God-esteem; self-confidence vs. God-confidence, hope for good health vs. the certainty of the resurrection, career and success vs. the call of God on your life, business and stimulation vs. the quiet rest of knowing Christ, and grit-effort vs. resting in acceptance in God’s grace. Where is the area of your greatest temptation to rely on self rather than on God?

Both men had to fight through obstacles to see Jesus. What are obstacles that we all face in our desire to see Jesus clearly today?

Have you ever faced a choice point in life where you got the opportunity to choose between “selling sugar water or a chance to change the world?”

Both men needed to fight through barriers to see Jesus, and both were willing to embarrass themselves to see Jesus. Where are you in your rush to see Jesus - lukewarm, distracted, interested, or maybe climbing over barriers to grasp him?

How have you or how have we held people back from seeing Jesus, personally or as a church?

When they pursued Jesus they did not know if the embarrassment was worth the risk, but in the end seeing Jesus changed them. Jesus graciously asked the blind man, “What would you have me do?” Do you perceive Jesus as coming to you and everyone as graciously as that?

In terms of your own spiritual walk, and if Jesus asked you, “What do you desire?”, how would you respond? Can you trust Jesus with this spiritual desire?

Study note: When the tax collector Zacchaeus became a believer, he offered restitution to the tune of four times the amount to anyone he had defrauded (Luke 19:8). The effect of grace on our lives is to make our hearts eager to do what is right. Yet ultimately it is not our confession or our restitution that saves us but Christ’s death in our place.

Once Zacchaeus saw himself as Jesus saw him – loved, accepted, a child of God – how did he respond? Is this too lavish or could we respond in that way too?

What would it look like if we got “freed” like Zacchaeus did?

When God has answered the cry of your heart, do you share the good news with others, so that their reaction is to immediately give “praise to God”? (Luke 18:43)