

Loving Your Enemies



Gospel of Matthew

Story of Zaccheus



Who was he?

Who was the Political Power?

Who was he?

- Tax collector → Jewish Tax Collector
- For Rome
- Jericho
 - One of the oldest inhabited cities in the world
 - First city the Israelites conquered when the Israelites arrived in Canaan after their escape from Egypt about 1400 years earlier
 - Located near the Jordan River
- This is more than likely a fishing community
- So the fish were more than likely taxed

Zacchaeus

- Zacchaeus was a wealthy tax collector
- The taxation would have been carried out on all Jewish citizens
- Jericho was more of a fishing community
- If you caught too many fish and you couldn't pay the taxes... Back went some of the fish.
- How did the Romans operate back then?

Roman Rule

- The Romans worked through humiliation
- Barbaric
- How does a follower of Christ who is truly embracing his teachings act in these circumstances?
- Wherever the Roman guards showed up there was trouble

Christ's Teachings

- Read Matthew 5:16-19
- Matthew 5:23-24



Teachings of Christ

5:29 Behold, it is written by them of old time that thou shalt not commit adultery.

5:30 But I say unto you that whosoever looketh on a woman, to lust after her, hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

5:31 Behold, I give unto you a commandment, that ye suffer none of these things to enter into your heart; for it is better that ye should deny yourselves of these things, wherein ye will take up your cross, than that ye should be cast into hell.

5:32 Therefore, if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out and cast it from thee; for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

5:33 Or if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off and cast it from thee; for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

Christ's Teachings

Matt 5:42 And if any man will sue thee at the law and take away thy coat, let him have it; and if he sue thee again, let him have thy cloak also.

Matt 5:43 And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him a mile; and whosoever shall compel thee to go with him twain, thou shalt go with him twain.

Matt 5:44 Give to him that asketh of thee; and from him that would borrow of thee, turn not thou away.

Matt 5:45 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy.

Matt 5:46 But I say unto you, Love your enemies; bless them that curse you; do good to them that hate you; and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you;

Matt 5:47 That ye may be the children of your Father who is in heaven; for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Matt 5:48 For if ye love only them which love you, what reward have you? Do not even the publicans the same?

Matt 5:49 And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? Do not even the publicans the same?

Matt 5:50 Ye are, therefore, commanded to be perfect, even as your Father who is in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 6

6:25-26



**What is a new
believer to do?**

Love in the Western Culture

Love is often viewed as a “feeling”



Greek - Agape Love

- Attitude
- Mindset
- Action



Agape Love (Charity)

“agape is the word used for the love that moved God to send his only son for the world's redemption” - Britannica



Story of Zacchaeus

Luke 19:1-10



Zacchaeus was Undeserving

- Luke 19:7 And when the disciples saw it, they all murmured, saying that he was gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.

We are all Undeserving

- Luke 7:47 “ Wherefore, I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.”

1 Corinthians 13

“1Cor 13:4 Charity suffereth long and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

13:5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil,

13:6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth,

13:7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

13:8 Charity never faileth;”

Final Thoughts