

Zacchaeus and The Origins of Punitive Damages

There's a story I know I've never talked about, and it's another one of my favorites. But it's not because the main character was a hero, in fact, right up until his day of Salvation, his encounter with Jesus, this guy was something of a scoundrel, and he was despised by almost everyone.

So why do I love this story so much? It's because it goes to show that Salvation is available to everyone. And that no matter how egregious the sins, the Lord will go out of His way, and go waaay against what might be popular or acceptable, to save just one person. And I absolutely love that.

Zacchaeus was a Tax Collector, and he was oppressively unfair to the people, and his corruption made him filthy rich. That's why they hated him. And so as you might imagine, when Jesus announced that He was going to spend time with this evildoer, the people took great exception. But this was one of the *many* times when Jesus opted to take the "road less traveled", and because He did, Zachaeus, and a great many more egregious sinners just like him were given new hope for their Salvation and eternal life. And I think that's pretty awesome!

In the end, Zachaeus was so resurrected that he returned to everyone he'd cheated over the years, four (4) times that which he'd wrongfully appropriated.

And again, I think that's pretty amazing!

I hope you have an incredible day!!

- Jack

Luke 19:1-10 (NIV)

Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

¹ Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. ⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. ⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'" ⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."