



the point of IMPACT

Week 4 Devotionals...

The Impact of Salvation

He just wanted to see the Master. He never expected to have lunch with him. And Jesus offered what he expected even less—salvation. It changed his life, starting with the way he decided to use his money to change the lives of others.

Monday, April 27

Read Take a few moments to read the whole story of Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus, Luke 19:1-10.

Review When it came to “measuring up,” Zacchaeus wasn't just vertically challenged. Almost everyone in town would have said this tax collector was short in virtue, loyalty and in character. Perhaps his interest in Jesus was just fleeting curiosity, but perhaps it revealed a deep longing in his soul to no longer be the guy everyone looked down on. Something compelled him to “go out on a limb” and when he did Jesus called him by name and invites himself over for dinner.

Respond Are there times in your life when you feel like you don't “measure up?” How do you deal with these shortcomings? Do you have a friend who is “out on a limb” because they feel like they don't “measure up.” Set up a time to meet with them and share each other's story in light of this story. What would Jesus say to each of you?

Tuesday, April 28

Read Romans 3:23

Review We all “fall short” and need Jesus. We are all “wee little men” by God's standards. None of us measure up to His righteousness. Yet we often struggle to admit that we “come up short.” One way we deny our “shortness” is to find a shorter Zach to compare ourselves to. Remember, Jesus did not say that we all sin the same amount, or that all sins are equal in

their temporal consequences. He did say that all have sinned and are lost in the sense that we can never measure up to the holy demands of God.

Respond Spend some time today acknowledging the truth that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” What’s one thing from your past you need to make right? Ask God to help you identify it. What next step do you need to take to do something about it?

Wednesday, April 29

Read Romans 6:4

Review When the good news of God’s grace collides with our shortcomings the impact creates a new person. It’s hard to imagine a new future if you are defined by your past. But Jesus helps us find our identity in his gospel instead of someone else’s label. The gospel is forgiveness and formation.

Respond We get our self-image by looking up instead of looking around – “It’s in Christ that we find out who we are...” (Ephesians 1:11, MSG). Paul puts it like this in 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT), “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” Write down one thing the “new you” is going to do differently. Share it with someone and ask them to hold you accountable.

Thursday, April 30

Read Luke 19:18

Review The impact is a new person...with a new passion. The old Zach lived for what he could get; the new Zach lived for who he could bless. He becomes a cheerful giver. It is worthless to speak of your spiritual devotion if it has not affected your material decisions.

Respond Make a list of a few ways your spiritual devotion has impacted your material decisions (ways God has used what he’s given you to bless others). Make a point to do one thing for a “needy” person this week.

Friday, May 1

Read Luke 19:9-10

Review Saved people are not “short-sighted. Generosity is not the means of salvation, but it is the most clear evidence of it. Salvation always has an impact, and not just on the community. By renewing Zacchaeus, Jesus was also renewing a community.

Respond Most people ask “Why do I not have what I do not have?” Saved people ask “Why do I have what I have?” Make a commitment to partner with God in His work of renewal. Lift others up so they can see Jesus.