



WEEK FOUR: THE HOUSECLEANING PRINCIPLE

CONNECT

This week we continue our series called Hope Changes Everything! In this eight-week series, we'll look at the principles Jesus gave us in the beatitudes that help us see the hope and freedom we find in God alone. This week, we look at the **Housecleaning Principle** and the guilt that often hinders us from being who God wants us to be.

- Are you afraid of heights? If so, where do you think that fear began? If not, what is the highest place you have climbed to?
- If you could live someone else's life for one day, whose would it be, and why?

DISCOVER

Read Matthew 5:8a

"Happy are the pure in heart." (TEV)

Read Luke 19:1-10

¹Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. ²There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. ³He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.

⁵When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today."

⁶Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. ⁷But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled.

⁸Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!"

⁹Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

- At this time, tax collectors were despised by the people. Rome set a specific tax rate. Tax collectors were free to charge whatever they wanted, as long as Rome got their money, so they charged much more than was necessary and were a burden to the people. Zacchaeus, being a "chief tax collector" would have received a cut from everyone beneath him as well. To add to the problem was the fact that tax collectors were fellow Jews. It was their own people cheating them.
- Initially, why do you think Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus? What shows you his eagerness, and why might he have been so willing to do whatever it took?
- What was Zacchaeus' reaction and the people's reaction to Jesus choosing to be a guest of Zacchaeus? Why do you think the people were grumbling about it?
- Why might Jesus' visit to his home have caused such life-change in Zacchaeus' heart?
- What might have changed in Zacchaeus' heart (Guilt, greed, etc.)? Might this have given Zacchaeus the pure heart Jesus referred to in Matthew 5:8? What makes you think that?
- What commitment did Zacchaeus make to Jesus? Do you think it changed his reputation? Why or why not?

GROW

Big Idea: Openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust.

- Describe a time when you were let down by someone you trusted. What did that do to your relationship, and how did that impact your view of that person?
- What do you think of the phrase, "You're only as sick as your secrets"? How do you see it play out in peoples' lives?
- How hard is it for you to admit your faults, or to own sin in your life? Do you tend to go to others, or do you wait for them to come to you?
- Do you tend to carry unresolved guilt, or are you quick to make things right and let it go?

NEXT STEPS

- Take some time this week and take a Moral Inventory (Watch the Moral Inventory video from the weekend message: palmvalley.org/inventory). How trustworthy are you? What guilt do you carry? What secrets do you hold on to and hide deep inside that effect who you are and how you relate to others, and to Christ?

1. Meditate on the following verses: Lamentations 3:40; Psalm 51:10; Isaiah 1:18; John 10:10
 2. Spend some time in prayer, giving sin, guilt, and secrets to God, asking for His forgiveness, and for a pure heart.
 3. Read James 5:16a. Talk with someone you trust. Perhaps someone from your small group who can pray for you, encourage you, and hold you accountable to truly let those things go. This will take Faith, Trust, and Humility!
- If you struggle with any hurts, habits, or hang-ups, come try out Celebrate Recovery on Monday nights at 6:30, at the Goodyear Campus, 431 N Litchfield Rd, Goodyear, 85338. Or find more information at palmvalley.org/celebraterecovery