



COLOSSIANS 1:27-29

GROWING IN CHRISTIAN CHARACTER (Part 1)

REPENTANCE REGENERATION AND TRANSFORMATION

Senior Pastor Lawrence Chua • 5 July 2020

Introducing the leading text for the series

Colossians 1:27-29 (AMPC)

²⁷ To whom God was pleased to make known how great for the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ within and among you, the Hope of [realizing the] glory.

²⁸ Him we preach and proclaim, warning and admonishing everyone and instructing everyone in all wisdom (comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God), that we may present every person mature (full-grown, fully initiated, complete, and perfect) in Christ (the Anointed One). ²⁹ For this I labour [unto weariness], striving with all the superhuman energy which He so mightily enkindles and works within me.

Colossians 1:27-29 (AMPC)

Colossians 1:27-29 (CEV)

²⁷ God did this because he wanted you Gentiles to understand his wonderful and glorious mystery. And the mystery is that Christ lives in you, and he is your hope of sharing in God's glory. ²⁸ We announce the message about Christ, and we use all our wisdom to warn and teach everyone, so that all of Christ's followers will grow and become mature. ²⁹ That's why I work so hard and use the mighty power he gives me.

- **Taking responsibility and working hard for the growth and maturity of all followers of Christ.**
 - **Disciples of Jesus are all His followers**
 - **God has placed us in this church so that we can follow Christ and journey with Christ and together with each other.**
 - **Pastoral leadership desire to see disciples in this church growing and becoming spiritually mature.**

Part 1

REPENTANCE REGENERATION AND TRANSFORMATION

Luke 19:1-10



Luke 19:1-10 (NKJV)

Then Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. ² Now behold, there was a man named **Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.** ³ **And he sought to see who Jesus was,** but could not because of the crowd, for **he was of short stature.** ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass that way.

⁵ And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down, for **today I must stay at your house.**” ⁶ So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. ⁷ But when they saw it, **they all complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.”** ⁸ Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.” ⁹ And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; ¹⁰ for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

Luke 19:1-10 (NKJV)

Introduction

a) Dramatic makeover: many disciples have seen it

b) Discipleship model: making disciples as shown in scriptures

- **fundamental element of discipleship is follower-ship**
- **Disciples follow Jesus on a dynamic life journey involving time and events.**

- **highly relational with Jesus and with other disciples**
- **Christ centred and other oriented**
- **never be self-centred**
- **You are not done with discipleship yet?**
- **Discipleship is for life and none of us can say that I am done.**
- **How then can we measure the success of our discipleship journey?**

c) Desired measure: measuring disciple-making success

- **Traceable outcome is important**
 - **outcome of discipleship journey is the transformation of character**

- **Teaching on outcome instituted early**
 - **the desired outcome of discipleship :**
 - » **certain lifestyle**
 - » **certain character transformation**
 - » **some of which can be gleaned from **Luke 6:20-42****
 - **starts with His famous Sermon on the Mount**

- **The beatitudes speak of the radical lifestyle of the disciple.**
- **We can call Kingdom Lifestyle.**
- **Seek first the Kingdom of God means:**
 - » **adopt Kingdom lifestyle**
 - » **cultivating Kingdom values**

Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

- **simplicity is a Kingdom lifestyle**
- **hold the values of frugality and contentment**
- **Kingdom of God has certain character and the King who rules the Kingdom is a righteous King.**

- **righteous character**
- **lifestyle of the Kingdom of God is very radical**
- **Jesus taught very radical Kingdom values.**
- **The disciples would have the character quality of simplicity.**

Luke 6 : 20-23 (NKJV)

Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: **“Blessed are you poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, For you shall laugh. ²² Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man’s sake. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, For in like manner their fathers did to the prophets . . .**

- **Beatitudes also included righteous character qualities (His righteousness, His character qualities).**
- **Righteous character formation would include:**
 - » **character qualities in terms of simplicity (as we have mentioned above)**
 - » **being gracious, merciful, forgiving, peaceful, generous, kind and loving**

Luke 6 : 27-38 (NKJV)

“But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. ²⁹ To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰ Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back. ³¹ And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.

³² “But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners, love those who love them. ³³ And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴ And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. ³⁵ **But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.**

³⁶ Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. ³⁷ “Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. ³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

Luke 6:27-38 (NKJV)

d) Learning from the discipleship of Zacchaeus

- **Starting point of character formation: imperfections and identity**
 - **considered as a person of disrepute**
 - **rejected by society at large**
 - **Rejection was probably suffered by him all his life, from his childhood.**

- **physical imperfection**
- **probably very loud and very boastful**
- **to compensate his imperfection**
- **Certain imperfections expose us to great pain in life, especially in our growing up years as a child.**
- **shaped some of our character traits**

- **identity in the tax collectors community**
- **influenced the formation of his character traits and values.**
- **entire tax collectors community was rejected by the Jewish population**

Luke 5 : 27-32 (NKJV)

After these things He went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me." ²⁸ So he left all, rose up, and followed Him. ²⁹ Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them. ³⁰ And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, "Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" ³¹ Jesus answered and said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ³² I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

- **To this community of tax collectors, Zacchaeus felt belonged and found his sense of belonging.**
- **gnawing need in his heart for love, acceptance and peace with God**

- **Zacchaeus sought the Kingdom of God**

Now when it was day, He departed and went into a deserted place. And the crowd sought Him and came to Him, and tried to keep Him from leaving them; ⁴³ but He said to them, “I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, because for this purpose I have been sent.” ⁴⁴ And He was preaching in the synagogues of Galilee.
Luke 4:42-44 (NKJV)

Luke 19 : 2-3 (NKJV)

Now behold, there was a man named **Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich.** ³**And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd, for he was of short stature.**

- **Zacchaeus may be thinking:**
 - » **“When would it be my turn to be accepted by Jesus?**
 - » **Would I ever be accepted by Him?”**

- **Zacchaeus' doubt was matched by his desire to encounter Jesus.**
- * **“ . . . for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
Luke 19:10 (NKJV)**

Matthew 7 : 7-11 (NKJV)

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

- **Our imperfections sharpen our deep need for healing and acceptance.**
- **Our sense of rejection in life will draw us to the unconditional acceptance by Jesus.**
- **Our desire for a sense of belonging will lead us to the family of God and the Kingdom God.**
- **To these we shall belong and from these we shall enjoy our sense of belonging.**

Conclusion

