

*First Encounter #5*

**Repentance**

**Word**

**Scripture Reference**

Luke 19:1-10

**Discussion Questions**

1. Name someone whom you have a strong interest to meet and share with the group why you want to meet this person. What impact did he/she have on your life?
2. Read Luke 19:1-10. Jericho's location at the center of the ancient highway made it the greatest taxation city in Palestine. On His way to Jerusalem, Jesus passed by Jericho where He met Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector. How did the Bible describe Zacchaeus (v. 1-3)? Discuss how his position affected how the people perceived and treated him.
3. How did Zacchaeus show his strong desire to see Jesus (v. 4)? For a man of his position, Zacchaeus was so passionate about seeing Jesus that he cared not for what the crowd would say about his actions. When you eagerly and fervently look for Him, He will show Himself to you (v. 5-6). How have you been expressing your longing to see Jesus? What hinders you from desiring to see Jesus?
4. The basis of repentance is simply a personal encounter with Christ, an encounter where you sought Him and He stopped to come into your life. What does repentance mean? How is repentance significant in your relationship with Jesus Christ?
5. The crowd's negative reaction to Jesus visiting Zacchaeus' house tells us what kind of person Zacchaeus was (v. 7), but his change of heart was evident after meeting Jesus (v. 8). We see from Zacchaeus' actions two evidences of genuine repentance. The first is a change in the way we live our life. Recognizing your faults and actually

changing your ways are two very different things. Why is it important for change to take place when you say you repented from your sins?

6. The second evidence of genuine repentance is righting our wrongs (or restitution). Why is it sometimes not enough for a person to simply apologize for doing wrong upon another? What character trait is demonstrated whenever we make amends with tangible action? Is there a past sin in your life for which you need to make amends? How willing are you to humbly correct these past wrongs as proof of your genuine repentance?
7. Repentance results in restoration (v. 9-10). As a Christian, are you prone to taking for granted your relationship with God? In what ways does your repentance from sin restore you toward God?

**Walk**

It is a command from God that everyone should repent (Acts 17:30). As a follower of Christ you need to confess your sins and right your wrongs in obedience to God. A common misconception about repentance is that we can add Jesus but not subtract sin in our life. A change in belief without a change in behavior is useless change. What sin in your life do you need to repent upon? Is your repentance merely the result of the fear of being caught, or is it because you fear offending the Holy God?

**Worship & Prayer**

**Join the Corporate Prayer Time every Friday, 7:15-8:00pm at the Balcony**

Pray for...

- True repentance to be evident in the lives of God's people where others are blessed
- Wisdom and strength for the RELAX team to finalize all preparations for retreat.
- Grace for Dr. Paul Tan to undergo knee replacement surgery on August 5.
- Salvation and healing for Ang Chu Lan. Cancer patients: LG, FW, Segundo Yu, Anabelle Uytengsu, Irene Tyapon.
- Spiritual healing for Mr. Lim, RC, ML.
- †God's comfort and peace to be with the bereaved family of Christopher Sitjar.