**“A Contrast of Faith?”**

**Luke 18:18-27; 19:1-10**

Last week we looked at a picture of “kingdom faith”a faith that pleases God. This faith will persevere through trials, humbly admit its unworthiness and openly acknowledge its absolute dependence. This kind of faith is necessary for us to truly change. Luke records two contrasting responses to Christ’s invitation to place complete faith (trust) in Him.

**I. What Is Our Focus of Trust?**

1. **Question: To What are we Looking? -**
2. **Our Lives are Reflections -**
3. **Only God is Worthy -**

**II. A Rich Young Ruler (18:18-27):**

1. **Focus of Trust** (vv.18, 21) **-**
2. **Christ Confronts** (v. 22) **-**
3. **The Ruler Rejects** (v. 23) **-**

**III. Zacchaeus the Tax Collector (19:1-10):**

1. **Focus of Trust** (v.2) **-**

1. **Meeting with Christ** (v.5) **-**
2. **Zacchaeus Transforms** (v.8) -

Through their responses to Christ, these two men power- fully illustrate Christ’s teaching about faith in God. He has created and redeemed us for a faith (trust) relationship with Him, but we must forsake any false focus to fully embrace a walk of faith and complete commitment to Him.

**Statement:** When we worship someone/thing (make it the most important in our life) we will sacrifice to/for it!

**Going Deeper:**

1. How would you define “faith’ to someone who asks you? What/who are some of the things/persons we place our faith in on a regular basis?
2. In this passage Luke uses two men to contrast the reaction of someone to Christ’s invitation to join Him in a trusting relationship. What do think was behind the different responses? What caused the rejection and the overwhelming acceptance?
3. What are some of the “false gods” of our present culture? What things call for us to sacrifice our- selves and our resources?
4. Do you think there’s a longing for something mean- ingful (transcendent) in our culture today? Have you seen any indications of such a desire?
5. What do you think it was it about Zacchaeus that made him so willing to embrace Christ upon meet- ing Him? What may have been the reason(s) for his immediate acceptance?
6. **Personal:** As you examine your own life, do you think/feel that Christ holds the preeminent place of commitment? Is He the most important One in your life or is there a rival?

**Questions for Our Kids:**

1. What makes you trust someone? When you trust someone, does it make it a lot easier to obey them?
2. Would you have liked to meet Zacchaeus? Can you draw a picture of him in a tree waiting to see Jesus?
3. Do you know someone who may need to learn about Jesus? Can you pray for them, that they would hear about Him?