

BETTER

12

STEPS TO BETTER 2025

BIBLE STUDY NOTES



THE HOUSE OF HOPE
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IDENTIFY THE WOUNDED “REDACTED”

This month, we focus on the 8th step: **Identify the Wounded**. The premise is that by the end of this step, we will be able to identify those we have hurt - by creating a list. This seems easy enough but sometimes we may have classified these “files” or incidents in our lives. We may have **redacted** them or blacked them out. Today’s discussion is a continuation of Sunday’s Sermon - **Redacted: The Zacchaeus Files**.

Jesus 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^a came to seek and save those who are lost.” **Luke 19:1-10 NLT**

1. What Does Redacted, Classified, And Declassified Mean?

- **Redacted:** Content hidden or removed from a document before publication to protect sensitive information.
- **Classified:** Information officially designated as secret, with access restricted to those with proper clearance.
- **Declassified:** Information that was once classified but has had its secret status removed and can now be shared more widely.

2. The Zachaeus Files Declassified

Luke 19:2

- **Publican:** A chief tax collector in Jericho, known for his wealth. Tax collectors were often despised by the Jewish people for their association with the Roman authorities and their reputation for corruption.

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3. The Brokenness That Influenced His Decisions

Luke 19:3

- He was short in stature
- “Generational shortness” that has affected your generation

4. The Bondage Not Fixed By Dollars

Luke 19:3-7

- Hoarding, the stigma of being short
- What ways do you compensate for “shortcomings”
- Zacchaeus - pure one, instead of living what he was named, he lived by how people made him feel.
- The pain that shaped his choices

5. The Blessing That Changed His Destiny

Luke 19: 4-9

- Zacchaeus’ willingness to repay those he wronged demonstrates true repentance, which involves a change of both heart and actions.
- Salvation - *sōtēria*: complete deliverance

v.1 Just as Jesus was passing through Jericho, He passes through our lives. We must be open to His presence and ready for transformation.

Reflections For The Week: In Your Quiet Time With God, Ask Yourself These Questions.

1. The Zachaeus Files Declassified: **What “file” in your life have you kept classified? Who is on your list?**
2. The Brokenness That Influenced His Decisions. **What’s something from your past that still makes you feel justified in not letting certain people off the hook?**
3. The Beginning Of Zacchaeus’ Drama: **Is there something in your life that makes you feel okay about holding grudges or keeping certain people at a distance?**
4. The Bondage Not Fixed By Dollars: Often, we buy things, experiences, food, procedures to try to fix something that cannot be fixed with money, **what is something you are masking with money?**
5. The Blessing That Changed His Destiny: **How many of us live by what we feel versus who God called us to be?**

Step 8: Identify The Wounded