

THE BIG IDEA: The presence of Jesus shifts us from required to desired

The Take-Off

Have you ever known people who could “feel it in their bones?”

You’re getting dressed for a beautiful day and they tell you to grab an umbrella - “Why? It’s sunny.”

“It’s gonna rain. I can feel it in my bones.”

I think that would be a fairly decent way to describe what the disciples might have been feeling at this point in Luke.

Jesus is talking more about the cross, the religious leaders’ hatred toward Jesus is spiking, and they’re on their way to the Jerusalem - the last place those two realities should meet.

Can you hear their whispered conversations?

“Something’s happening. Something’s changing. Things seem different now - He isn’t playing. There’s a shift coming. I can feel it in my bones.”

1. It’s about seeing things differently, not about seeing different things

- a. First, we’ve got to determine exactly what we mean by a shift
- b. **A shift is about seeing things differently, not about seeing different things**
- c. That’s exactly what a paradigm shift is: what’s happening doesn’t change, but the filter through which we see what’s happening changes
- d. Best illustration is the father on the subway with out of control children
- e. Want to see a shift in the Bible? **2 Kings 6:17**
- f. Are you a Matrix fan? Morpheus offered a shift.
- g. **[IMAGE / Red pill/blue pill]**
- h. The blue pill was the status quo. The red pill led to a destiny-altering shift.
- i. In the first 10 verses of Luke 19, we meet a man who took the red pill.
- j. You might have heard of him (and if you grew up in church, you probably learned a song about him)
- k. His name is Zacchaeus and he wanted to see Jesus

2. We’ll never see what we’re not looking for

- a. Before we can even get to the shift that I want to show you, I’ve got to ask you if you even want to see it?
- b. I love verse 3: Zacchaeus WANTED to see Jesus but he had some obstacles: his condition (short and sinful) and the crowd (tons of people and none of them liked him enough to help him)
- c. That didn’t stop him!
- d. How hungry are you to see Jesus? We’re in a 50 day season of prayer and fasting right now, and this Wednesday we’ll all begin to fast from and fast for whatever the Lord has laid on our hearts
- e. I WANT TO SEE JESUS, no matter what!
- f. Fasting is intentional obedience to make room for Jesus. It’s not a competition or a way to twist God’s arm to do what we want. It’s simply a way to create space and ask Him to fill it.
- g. For Zacchaeus, not only did he see Jesus, but Jesus saw him and filled his life in a way that caused a shift for Zacchaeus - the same shift that I want all of us to experience during 50 Days to Fire

3. The shift from cop to coach

- a. Before I show you this shift, let me make a quick disclaimer: this is simply a metaphor, an analogy
- b. Of course, I’m not saying that all cops are bad or that all coaches are good, but I think this is an important shift that we need to see, and this comparison will help us do that
- c. Now, the **handy dandy comparison chart** that we’re going to use to walk through the story
- d. Comparisons
 - Tickets the wrong vs Teaches the right
 - Causes fear vs Inspires faith (no one sees blue lights and thinks they’re bringing donuts!)
 - Points out our mistakes vs Points out our potential
 - Focus is on rules vs Focus is on relationship (head vs heart)
 - Catches us in the act vs Releases us to act (**2 Peter 1:15**)
 - External motivation vs Internal motivation (coach isn’t on the court - coach yourself - **Col. 3:15**)
 - Sees the problem vs Sees the purpose (**vs. 10**)

- e. Can we just hang out on that last one for a moment?
- f. When it came to Zacchaeus, the crowd acted like a cop - “they began to mutter” - verse 7
- g. They saw Zacchaeus as the problem but Jesus saw Zacchaeus as His purpose
- h. That’s the kind of shift that I believe the Lord is working in us as a church
- i. At the end of this 50 day season, we’ll find ourselves seeing the same things differently

The Landing

Can I give you a couple more takeaways as we wrap this up?

One - repentance restores us to God, but responsibility restores us to man

- Zacchaeus was right with Jesus before he ever made things right with others
- Did he have to? no, but if he wanted to have any influence on others, he did

Two - the love of Jesus shifted something in Zacchaeus that caused him to desire MORE than what was required

- Leviticus 6:5 would have had him pay back what was stolen PLUS 20%
- Zacchaeus volunteered to pay back 4X the amount
- (Ex: If he stole \$100, the law required him to pay back \$120. Instead, he gave \$400)

What does this mean for us? Simply that **the presence of Jesus shifts us from required to desired**

We’re able to be led by the Spirit instead of needing to be pushed

Why is this so important? Because no one wants to be pushed toward problems! We’d rather be led toward purpose.

Jesus came to seek and save the lost, and we’re sent as He was sent.

My prayer is that we experience the Zacchaeus shift so that our actions reveal the presence of Jesus in our lives.

Let’s pray.