

Take it point: What are you willing to do and be for God?

What you can give....Yourself

What God will give you....Himself

“Success: A View from God”

“Real Stories—Changing Lives” – Part 4

“He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.” — Jim Elliot

“My grace is sufficient for you [Paul], for power is perfected in weakness.” God to Paul [2 Corinthians 12:9]

Stories of Success

Luke 19:1 Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. **2** A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. **3** He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. **4** So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. **5** When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." **6** So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. **7** All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'" **8** But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." **9** Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. **10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."**

Observations:

“Success: A View from God” is fourth in a series titled, “Real Stories- Changing Lives.” Van Fleetwood April 28, 2013

John 3:1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. **2** He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." **3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."** **4** "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" **5** Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. **6** Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. **7** You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' **8** The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." **9** "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. **10** "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? **11** I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. **12** I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? **13** No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven--the Son of Man. **14** Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, **15** that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. **16** 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **17** For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him...'"

Observations:

Matthew 9:1 Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. **2 Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."** **3** At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!" **4** Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? **5** Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? **6** But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins . . ." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." **7** And the man got up and went home. **8** When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men.

Observations:

Other stories of success: