

October 29 Answers

- 1) Zacchaeus is a fascinating contrast to the rich young ruler. Jesus told the ruler to “sell **all** that you have,” while Zacchaeus was permitted to sell only **half**. Jesus told the ruler to “come, and **follow** me,” while Zacchaeus was allowed to **stay** in Jericho. Jesus told His disciples, “How **difficult** it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” yet Zacchaeus, who was “rich,” entered with ease. Both men had taken the initiative to see Jesus, yet one went away sorrowful while the other was filled with joy. Why? What was the difference? Here are some that come to mind: (1) Zacchaeus had a keen awareness of his **need**, while the rich young ruler was focused on his good works, (2) Zacchaeus freely acknowledged his **sin**, while the ruler proclaimed his righteousness, (3) Zacchaeus was sorry enough to repent and make **restitution**, while the ruler was only sorry enough to leave in grief and self-pity, (4) Zacchaeus freely **shared** his wealth with the poor, while the ruler kept his wealth for himself, (5) Zacchaeus loved **God** more than his money, while the ruler loved his money more than God. What a contrast! Zacchaeus, more than many other characters in the NT, demonstrated the kind of attitude that God longs to see in the hearts of His children. If we want to be welcomed into the Kingdom, we must imitate the simple faith and love of Zacchaeus!