



Part 2: The Next Level

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The Heart of Confession

1. An acknowledgement of the wrong that was done (*Psalm 51:3-7*)

Application: I cannot confess what I refuse to acknowledge.

2. A pronouncement of personal ownership (*Psalm 32:3-5*)

Application: I cannot own what I cannot speak.

3. A willingness to go public

Luke 19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ²A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³He wanted to see who Jesus was, but being a short man he could not, because of the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today."

⁶So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'"

⁸But 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."

⁹Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

The Road to Confession

Connection (*vss. 1-4*)

Conviction (*vs. 5*)

Confession of wrong (*vs. 8*)

Compensation (*vs. 8*)

Confession of right (*vss. 9-10*)

**The goal of confession is not a change in behavior;
it is a complete change of heart.**

(Continues on back)

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Why does God ask us to go public?

- 1) Releases the grip of hidden sin
- 2) Revokes the isolation
- 3) Restores humility

Next Steps :

- 1) Take a moment and get honest with God by writing out a confession and depositing into one of the crosses at the front of the Worship Center.
- 2) Make a covenant with God to include another trusted person in your confession

On your way home:

Do you have anything to make right or confess to the people in the car?
Now is a great time to come clean!

Small Group Discussion Questions



- 1) OK—it's time to confess... did you vote or not? (Smiles are encouraged right now, discussing politics is not!)
- 2) Has anyone ever confessed anything to you? How did you respond?
- 3) Do you know that background of David's confession in Psalm 51? How does that background affect your understanding of his confession?
- 4) How do you discern adequate compensation when a sin has been committed?
- 5) Can you think of any other reasons why God would ask us to confess to another human being as well as himself?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?

God, I confess to you...

I covenant before you to share this confession with...

Signed _____