

FIVE WAYS TO REBUILD RELATIONSHIPS # 3

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Making Restitution
What can I do to make it right?
September 27, 2009

The Idea of Making Things Right

"Do you still love me?"

Zacchaeus,, the tax collector makes amends.

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 because he was short he could not see over 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."

Luke 19:1-10

1. Words of Affirmation
2. Acts of Service
3. Receiving Gifts
4. Quality Time – Means "you are important to me"
5. Physical Touch

[Examples – Statements of Restitution]

RESTITUTION: *What can I do to make it right?*

Questions for Small Groups and Personal Devotions

Luke 19:1-10 (read aloud around the group)

What is the evidence that Zacchaeus made restitution
For his wrongs against people?

Open: What do you think of courts offering large sums of money for reparative damages? When do you feel the awarded sums become excessive?

Discussion

1. How have you sensed the need for another person to "pay for" his or her offense against you?
2. Speaking someone's "love language" (See opposite side) is central in making restitution successful. Which one is the most important to you? Why do you think this is the case?

Reflection

1. Recall a time when another person made restitution to you. How did you feel about the offer? How do you think the other person felt afterwards?

Application

Can you think of a time when you publicly humiliated someone? If so, think of a way to publicly praise this person, offering a powerful opportunity to restore respect.

Five Ways to Say I Am Sorry

- 9/20 Expressing Regret: *I am Sorry*
Accepting Responsibility: *I Was Wrong*
9/27 Making Restitution: *How Can I Make It right?*
10/4 Genuine Repenting: *I'll Try not to do that again.*
10/11 Asking Forgiveness: *Will you please forgive me?*