



# Biblical Foundations

## Our Hearts and Our Priorities

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*But Zaccheus stopped and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, half of my possessions I am giving to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone, I am giving back four times as much.”*

— Luke 19:8 (NASB)



### **Want to get to know someone? Look at his calendar and his bank statement.**

The way we spend our time and money reflects our values. It reveals what we consider important. Time and money are valuable commodities, and the things we trade them for are the things we consider valuable and worthwhile.

Zaccheus is a perfect example of this truth. Before he met Jesus, his time appears to have been focused on becoming wealthy at the expense of his fellow countrymen, including the poor.

Zaccheus’s life—and priorities—changed dramatically when he encountered Jesus and welcomed him into his home and his life. Instead of pursuing wealth, he began to look for opportunities to give it away. Instead of thinking only of his own needs and desires, he began to think of the needs of those around him. Instead of taking advantage of others, he sought ways to make amends.

What about his time? Zaccheus took time out of his schedule to welcome Jesus into his home. And the donations of half his possessions surely required a commitment of time and energy. The way Zaccheus thought about time and money quickly changed because his heart changed.



Martin Luther said, “There are three conversions necessary—the conversion of the heart, the mind, and the purse.” Sometimes these three conversions take place at the same time. Sometimes the conversion of the purse takes longer.

The way we use our time and money reflects our hearts. It is one measure of our attitude toward God and toward others. And it is a very practical way of living out the two greatest commandments—loving God and loving others.

Here’s a little experiment to test your heart. Look at your calendar for the last three months. What have you been spending your time on? What does this tell you about your priorities? Can you identify three priorities based on the activities that filled your schedule?

Look at your bank statements. What have you spent your money on over the last three months? What are the top three priorities your spending reveals?

Isn’t the account of Zaccheus inspiring? What a drastic change he experienced in such a seemingly short amount of time! Meeting Jesus makes all the difference. The way we spend our time and money is a reflection of our hearts. What does your spending say about you?