



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING THE RIPPLE EFFECT...

Crossroads Church - 3 year campaign to end thirst

**SOAP READING—March 10, 2010**

*Ryan Lunceford—Executive Pastor*

**S:** Luke 19:1-10

**O:** Jesus makes a huge splash in his encounter with Zacchaeus. His invitation to have dinner with a tax collector causes a stir among the people, pointing to the beginning of the end for him. The story, though, raises an awareness of how Jesus views even the most detestable of folks (something Zacchaeus was to the Jewish population). In view of my own sin and the sin of the world, it is proof of Jesus' gracious kindness to a guy who had no right hanging out with a perfect and holy God.

**A:** At times, I can be more critical than compassionate. However, Jesus challenges me to see people for who they are instead of who I think they should be. His compassion for Zacchaeus teaches me to see past people's imperfections and see their need for the same gracious kindness Jesus offers. The next time I choose to be critical or cynical toward someone, I will choose compassion instead.

**P:** Jesus, thank you for seeking me out and calling out to me. I pray that I can exhibit the same kind of compassion and kindness to those around me. I pray I choose compassion over criticism and grace over cynicism. Amen.