

UPCOMING EVENTS:

AGAPE THANKSGIVING MEAL

connect@ourelement.org

RSVP for a Host Home today!

We want to encourage all of you to join us on Sunday, November 22nd for a shared meal in people's homes as we kick off our Christmas Advent Season. This will be a Thanksgiving type dinner with a time of reflection and joyful celebration.

GOBAGS

All November

Help us support children put into Foster Care by filling basic necessities and needs. Check out the Gobags tent outside for more!

ADVENT SEASON

This year at Element we are doing something we have never attempted in our few years of existence; we are celebrating a season of the church calendar called Advent. Advent is a time of sober reflection that should (and will, in our case) lead to a time of loud joy.

Advent takes place over the four weeks that lead up to Christmas, with each week being a reflection of Christmas (Christ's) fulfillment.

Daily Readings start tomorrow, Nov. 23rd

Pick up your Advent Booklet today and join an Agpae Dinner to celebrate!

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us (we must be out of this one by December 2016).

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we

may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these "challenges" are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

LEGENDS OF THE FALL

TODAY'S VERSES:

Luke 19:10

Leviticus 25:10, 14, 17, 25, 35-36, 39-40

Leviticus 19:9-10, 13, 15, 19

Luke 19:1-10

Deuteronomy 4:29

Deuteronomy 7-8a

MY NOTES:

09

ZACCHAEUS

09 ZACCHAEUS



“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Luke 19:10

Welcome to Element’s sermon series titled “Legends of the Fall.” During this series we are taking a deeper look at all the “bad” people, or bad stories, in the Bible. Today, we look at the shortest bad guy in the Bible, Zacchaeus. He is one of the guys that people love because of the story, but he started off bad. He was a chief tax collector.

What occupations today are those that make you instantly dislike someone?

What type of person do you dislike?

Zacchaeus was a person who became a member of the ruling class by exploiting the poor in order to benefit himself. Tax collectors would extort extra money from those paying taxes to further benefit themselves. The poor hated tax collectors, just like the Occupied Wall Street movement hates Wall Street today, with the difference that no one could protest. When Jesus shows up, He calls Zacchaeus by name, giving him value.

Read Luke 19:1-10

If you had heard this story before the message, what were your thoughts on it?

How do you understand it now?

In Jesus’ day the taxes were excessive. The Roman government would take people from a conquered country to become collectors of taxes for the empire. The entire Jewish system of laws were set up by God to remind the Israelites of who God was, but also His care for His people. The way taxes were collected became a violation of God’s law, not because taxes were illegal, but because the excessiveness and the government preying on the weak were immoral.

Not to start a political discussion, but what things do governments do today that are immoral?

What is the proper way to stand against that immorality?

If you were a poor person in Israel who witnessed the corruption of the government officials, you were most likely upset. We as a people tend to intellectually know that Jesus loves everyone, but might get upset when we see Jesus care for someone who has intentionally hurt us.

Have you ever gotten upset when God bestowed grace upon someone you thought was undeserving?

How have you put Jesus in a box?

What does your salvation center on?

Zacchaeus’s faith was not about believing all the right stuff, his salvation centers on Jesus first seeking him and Zacchaeus’ response of surrender to the living God. When faith began to transform Zacchaeus’ heart he began to live differently, giving back and loving others like Jesus gave love and forgiveness to him. He begins to live as Jesus intended him to live.

How has God called you to live, but you are still refusing to surrender?

How have you seen God transform your life?

We cannot put Jesus in a box. He is bigger than our personal framework. He does not belong to a political party or system...it is rather the opposite, Jesus rules and reigns over everything. The power of the Gospel can change lives; this is clearly seen in Zacchaeus who eventually goes on to become a bishop in the Christian church in Caesarea.

What is the Gospel?

Who do you know that is like Zacchaeus, wanting a fuller understanding of Jesus?

How can you help introduce them to Jesus?

