



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

“Because of taxes, Jesus was born in Bethlehem, we are not ruled by England, we have a good infrastructure and we have something to complain about.”

I Love Tax Collectors

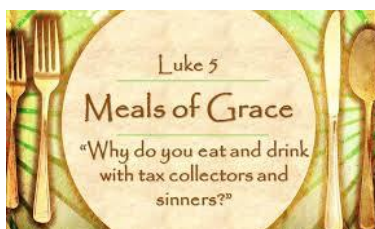
“The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican (tax collector).” Luke 18:11

“There are a few reasons for the low view of tax collectors in the New Testament era. First, no one likes to pay money to the government, especially when the government is an oppressive regime like the Roman Empire of the 1st century. Those who collected the taxes for such a government bore the brunt of much public displeasure. Second, the tax collectors in the Bible were Jews who were working for the hated Romans. These individuals were seen as turncoats, traitors to their own countrymen. Rather than fighting the Roman oppressors, they were helping them and enriching themselves at the expense of their fellow Jews. Third, it was common knowledge that the tax collectors cheated the people they collected from. By hook or by crook, they would collect more than required and keep the extra for themselves. Everyone just understood that was how it worked. Fourth, because of their skimming off the top, the tax collectors were well-to-do. This further separated them from the lower classes, who resented the injustice of their having to support the publicans’ lavish lifestyle” www.gotquestions.org/Bible-tax-collectors.html

For the past 19 years, I have been a tax collector of real estate, head tax and occupational taxes. In my little Borough area of one square mile there is one large factory left, 500 homes and 1,000 adults. The tax amount I collected in 2018 from them was \$1,955,250. This was an 87% increase in the last 18 years. The median household income is \$58,000 with 1 out of 5 not having taxable income. The current median house assessment is \$128,500. The hourly pay I made from collecting these taxes is below the minimum wage. Am I loved by everyone? No. (I can tell you stories.) I am I a sinner? Yes but saved by grace.

“And as Jesus passed forth from thence, He saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom (tax collector): and He saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed Him.” Matt 9:9
“And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans (tax collector), and he was rich. ...And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house.” Like 19:2:5
..“But their scribes and Pharisees murmured against His disciples, saying, Why do ye eat and drink with publicans (tax collectors) and sinners? And Jesus answering said unto them, They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” Luke 5:30-32
“Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans (tax collectors) and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans (tax collectors) and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.” Matt 21:31-32

Jesus loved tax collectors so much that He made one, Matthew, his disciple. He loved them so much that He stopped and invited Himself to eat with Zacchaeus. He loved so much that He died on the cross for them and for you. John 3:16 Love your tax collector because they are paying the same taxes as you.



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If Jesus can love and save me, a tax collector, then He can do the same for you.



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