

# 9 RESPONDING TO CORRUPTION: PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

## A. Introduction

Even as we endeavour to work on developing values that will ensure we are free of the evil of corruption, it is necessary that we acknowledge that corruption is already alive and present among us. We therefore need to develop appropriate responses to this evil. The best point from which to start is to look at ourselves and find out whether we might be guilty in one way or another. If so, what should we do? As individuals we determine how best to respond to corruption in institutions and the society around us. This will more often than not be a task far from being simple but if society is to deal with corruption, it must start with the individuals who make up the whole.



## B. In Your Life: Luke 19:1-10

1. Describe Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus and the results of this encounter.
2. a. From the passage, what do you think was Zacchaeus' character and conduct before he met Christ?  
b. What do you think is the significance of the promise he made in verse 8?
3. a. What can we learn as individuals and as a country from this story about how to deal with people found to have been corrupt?  
b. Is there anything in your possession, which you think you ought to return to the owners as Zacchaeus did? When do you intend to do this?

## C. At Your Work Place: Daniel 6:1-28

1. Mention what the satraps and administrators did against Daniel. How did Daniel respond to the situation?

2. Why do you think the administrators and satraps were working against Daniel?
3. What lessons can you draw from Daniel's experience as a public servant about:
  - a. Corruption in the workplace?
  - b. Integrity in the workplace?

**D. Memory Verse: Luke 19:8**

"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."

**E. Point of Reflection**

Determine at least one area in which corruption is taking place in your life, family, fellowship, workplace or in the wider society, in which you need to take decisive personal responsibility. Come up with a clear action plan, share it with someone/some people and pray about it.

**Additional Passages**

Matthew 22:15-22, 1 Kings 21:17-23, Isaiah 1:10-20.