

# 111 WHEN JESUS CAME TO A POLITICIAN

## I ZACCHAEUS

A. Scripture: Luke 19:1-10

B. He was chief among the Publicans

1. What this means: He was supt. of customs or tribute in the dist. of Jericho. Collector of Roman revenue. The Roman senate farmed the direct taxes and the customs to <sup>individuals</sup> ~~capitulations~~ who undertook to pay a given sum into the treasury. Contracts of this kind naturally fell into the richest class of Romans. They appointed managers who had under them the actual custom-house officers, who examined each bale of goods, exported or imported, assessed its value more or less arbitrarily, wrote out the ticket, and enforced payment. These officers were commonly natives of the province in which they were stationed. The name publican in the N.T. refers to these officers.

2. These Publicans were encouraged in the most fraudulent exactions.

a. They overcharged whenever they had opportunity. Lk. 3:13

b. They brought in false charges of smuggling in the hope of extorting hush-money. Lk. 19:8

c. They kept and opened letters on mere suspicion.

3. Special circumstances in Judea and Galilee

a. Strong feeling of many Jews as to the unlawfulness of paying tribute at all. Mt. 22:17

b. Publicans of N.T. were regarded as traitors + apostates

c. Practically excommunicated from Judaism, many publicans became some of the earliest disciples both of John the Baptist and of the Lord Jesus. Mt. 9:10, 11

4. Matthew, or Levi, was a Publican, collector of dues and customs from persons and goods crossing the Sea of Galilee, or passing along the great Samaritan road between Bethsaida and Capernaum. Jesus said to Matthew, "Follow me" Mt. 9:9

## II. HEROD

- A. Luke 23:6 - Pilate took occasion from our Lord's residence in Galilee to send Him for examination to Herod, who came up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover.
- B. Herod had heard so many things about Jesus; He was glad to see Him.
- C. He wanted to see some miracle done by Him; But Jesus was quiet and did not answer him.
- D. Pilate and Herod made friends together that very day.

## III. PILATE

- A. Jesus reminded Pilate that his power was given from above. (Jno. 19:11)
- B. Read Romans 13:1 and following
- C. Politicians and rulers are entrusted with serious responsibility.
- D. They are to be faithful to their trust.
- E. Christians are exhorted to be submissive. I Pet. 2:13-14

## IV. NICODEMUS

- A. John ch. 3
- B. Nicodemus was a pharisee, a ruler, member of the Sanhedrin, and a teacher of Israel.
- C. Jesus talked to him about the necessity of New Birth.
- D. Religion, education, position, "serving the people," does not save one's soul.  
"Ye must be born again."