

# Reparations

*Luke 19:1-10*

We hear a great deal today about reparations: paying people back for wrongs done in the past and making restitution for wrong actions. Indeed, a man saved by the grace of God has a responsibility to make things right.



Zacchaeus, the tax collector, met the Lord and made reparations to those he had wronged. He said, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, ***I restore him four-fold***” (*Luke 19:8*).

Samuel was willing to make reparations to any whom he had wronged: “Whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? ***and I will restore it you***” (*1 Sam. 12:3*).

However, today’s concept of reparations is beyond reason. Now we are told that we must make reparations for what ***our ancestors*** have done. Why are people who have never owned slaves supposed to pay slavery reparations to people who have never been slaves?

What men should ***really*** be concerned about is their debt to God and the wrongs which they have committed against their Maker. What would it cost to make reparations to the God we have offended and sinned against? It would require an eternity in the lake of fire bearing the full wrath of God. It is a hopeless dilemma. And yet, from the throne of God a Substitute arose and came to this earth to save sinners. He took our place and bore our sins in His own body on the tree (*1 Pet. 2:24*). We had a debt we could not pay; He paid a debt He did not owe. Reparations were fully made and Divine justice fully satisfied! Hallelujah what a Saviour!

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)

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