Thirty-Fourth Street Church of God
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2026 Is The Year Of B.E.T.T.E.R:

(BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, EQUIPPING, TRAINING, TRANSFORMATION, ENGAGE EVANGELISM, REVITALIZE)



STEP 8: IDENTIFY THE WOUNDED

"REDACTED"

Wednesday in the Word

September 30, 2026

Introduction

This month, we focus on the 8th step: **Identify the Wounded**. The premise is that by the end of this step, we will be able to identify those we have hurt - by creating a list. This seems easy enough but sometimes we may have classified these "files" or incidents in our lives. We may have ***redacted*** them or blacked them out.

Luke 19:1–10 (NLT)
Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. [2] There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich. [3] He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. [4] So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way. [5] When Jesus came by, he looked up at Zacchaeus and called him by name. "Zacchaeus!" he said. "Quick, come down! I must be a guest in your home today." [6] Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. [7] But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be the guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled. [8] Meanwhile, Zacchaeus stood before the Lord and said, "I will give half my wealth to the poor, Lord, and if I have cheated people on their taxes, I will give them back four times as much!" [9] Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. [10] For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost."

1. What Does Redacted, Classified, And Declassified Mean?

- **Redacted:** Content hidden or removed from a document before publication to protect sensitive information.
- **Classified:** Information officially designated as secret, with access restricted to those with proper clearance.
- **Declassified**: Information that was once classified but has had its secret status removed and can now be shared more widely.

2. The Zachaeus Files Declassified — Luke 19:2

- **Publican:** A chief tax collector in Jericho, known for his wealth. Tax collectors were often despised by the Jewish people for their association with the Roman authorities and their reputation for corruption.

3. The Brokenness That Influenced His Decisions — Luke 19:3

- He was short in stature
- "Generational shortness" that has affected your generation

4. The Bondage Not Fixed by Dollars **Luke 19:3-7**

- Hoarding, the stigma of being short
- What ways do you compensate for "shortcomings"
- Zacchaeus - pure one, instead of living what he was named, he lived by how people made him feel.
- The pain that shaped his choices

5. The Blessing That Changed His Destiny **Luke 19: 4-9**

- Zacchaeus' willingness to repay those he wronged demonstrates true repentance, which involves a change of both heart and actions.
- Salvation - ***sōtēria*****:** complete deliverance

v.1 *Just as Jesus was passing through Jericho, He passes through our lives. We must be open to His presence and ready for transformation.*

Reflections For The Week: In Your Quiet Time With God, Ask Yourself These Questions.

1. The Zachaeus Files Declassified: **What "file" in your life have you kept classified? Who is on your list?**
2. The Brokenness That Influenced His Decisions. **What's something from your past that still makes you feel justified in not letting certain people off the hook?**
3. The Beginning of Zacchaeus' Drama: **Is there something in your life that makes you feel okay about holding grudges or keeping certain people at a distance?**
4. The Bondage Not Fixed by Dollars: Often, we buy things, experiences, food, procedures to try to fix something that cannot be fixed with money, **what is something you are masking with money?**
5. The Blessing That Changed His Destiny: **How many of us live by what we feel versus who God called us to be?**

THOUGHTS OF THEOLOGY