

# The Centrality of Christ

**The Beginning: First Steps for New Disciples**

# Zacchaeus

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- Who was Zacchaeus?
- Relate how the scriptures describe him.



# Rich Young Ruler

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- Describe how you picture this young man?
- What does the scripture say about him?



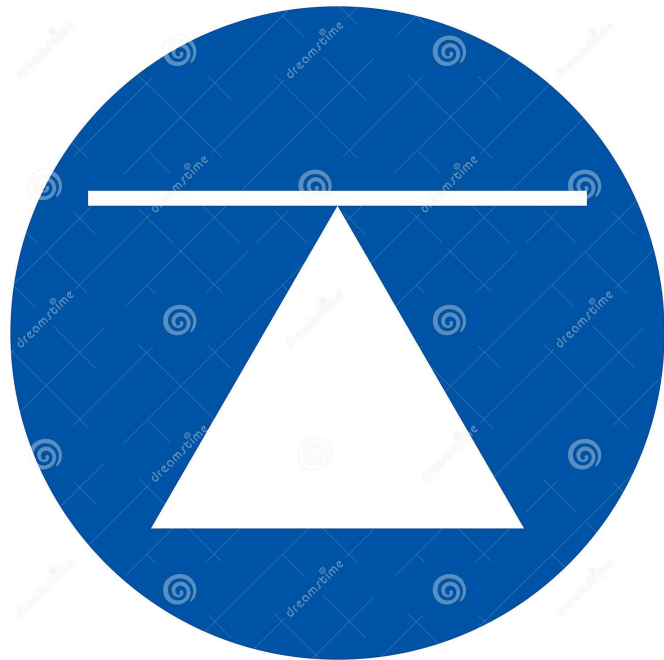


## Zacchaeus and the Rich Young Ruler

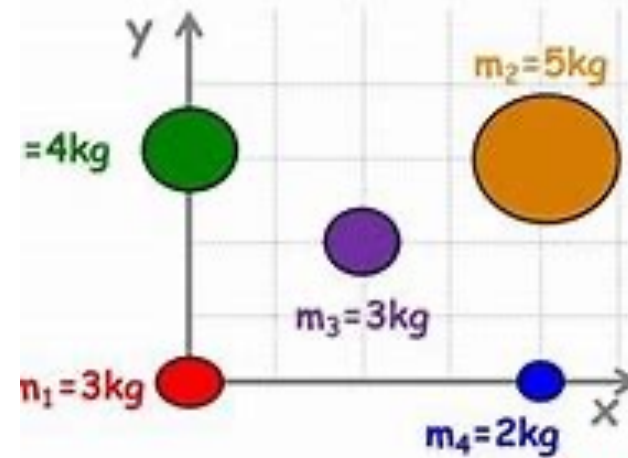
- What was their identity?
- What was the center of their identity?
- What was their response to Christ?

# Centrality of Christ

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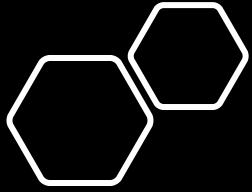
## Center of Mass



$$x_{CM} = \frac{\sum_i m_i x_i}{M_{Total}}$$

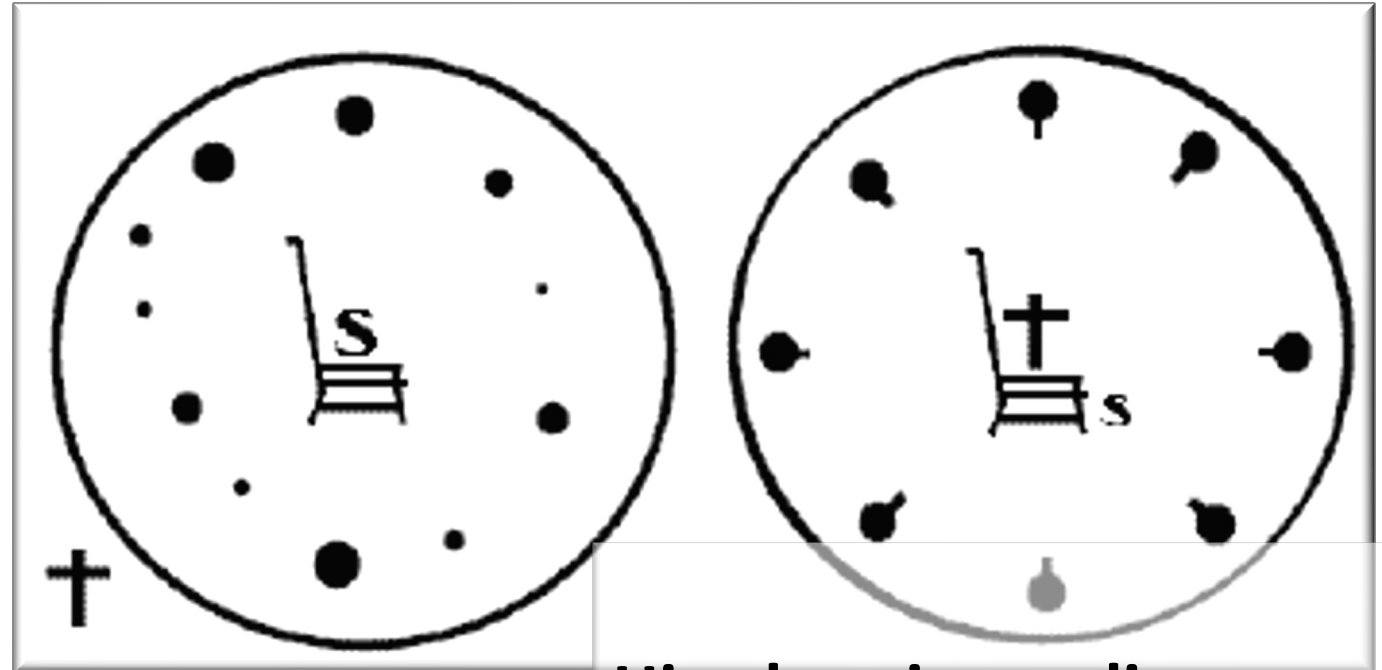
$$y_{CM} = \frac{\sum_i m_i y_i}{M_{Total}}$$





# Center of our Universe

Christ as our new center



**His place in our lives  
decides everything else.  
Jesus is non-negotiable.**

**His place in our lives decides  
everything else.**

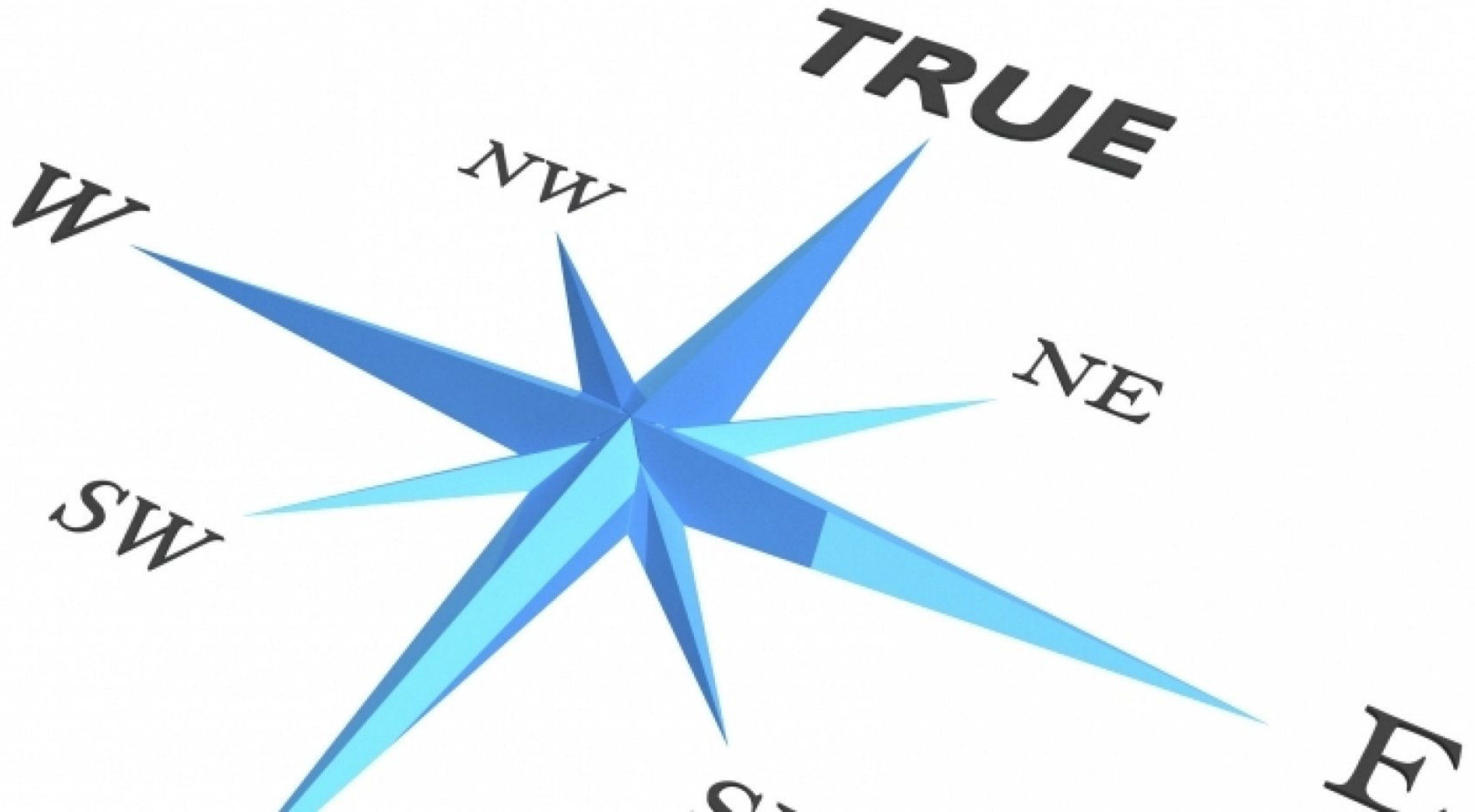
**Jesus is non-negotiable.**

# The Centrality of Christ



Christians are people who have had a spiritual revolution placing Jesus at the center of their lives.

- Jesus paid for our sins
- Jesus has freed us from bondage
- Jesus has restored our relationship with God.
- We Follow Him
- Do what Jesus did the way that He did it.





# Centrality of Christ

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and do not lean on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs  
3:5,6

# Centrality of Christ

- “And you, Solomon my son, know the God of your father and serve him with a whole heart and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches all hearts and understands every plan and thought. 1 Chronicles 28:9
- Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. Psalms 37:3-5.
- Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Selah Psalms 62:8

# cred·i·bil·i·ty

/ˌkredəˈbɪlədē/

*noun*

the quality of being trusted and believed in.

<sup>92</sup>“the government's loss of credibility”

*synonyms:* trustworthiness, reliability, dependability, integrity; [More](#)

- the quality of being convincing or believable.

<sup>92</sup>“the book's anecdotes have scant regard for credibility”

*synonyms:* plausibility, believability, tenability, probability, feasibility, likelihood, credence; [More](#)

- another term for [street credibility](#).

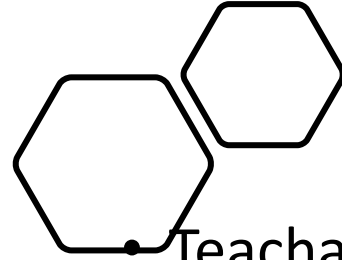
Credibility = Trust

# Credibility

- “A Christian leader is a servant with credibility” (pg. 49)
- If you don’t believe in the messenger, you won’t believe in the message
- “hardness of heart” –Disrespect due to unbelief
- Don’t believe the messenger- NO trust in the messenger or the message

Malphurs, A. (2003). Being Leaders: The Nature of Authentic Christian Leadership. Baker Books: Grand Rapids, MI.

# Centrality of Christ: Identity Lens



## Teachable posture

- Necessary to understand our new identity in Christ
- Proper perspective on struggles
  - Lose sight of what Christ has done and is doing
- Our identity moves us through the many struggles we face

# How Do We Trust?

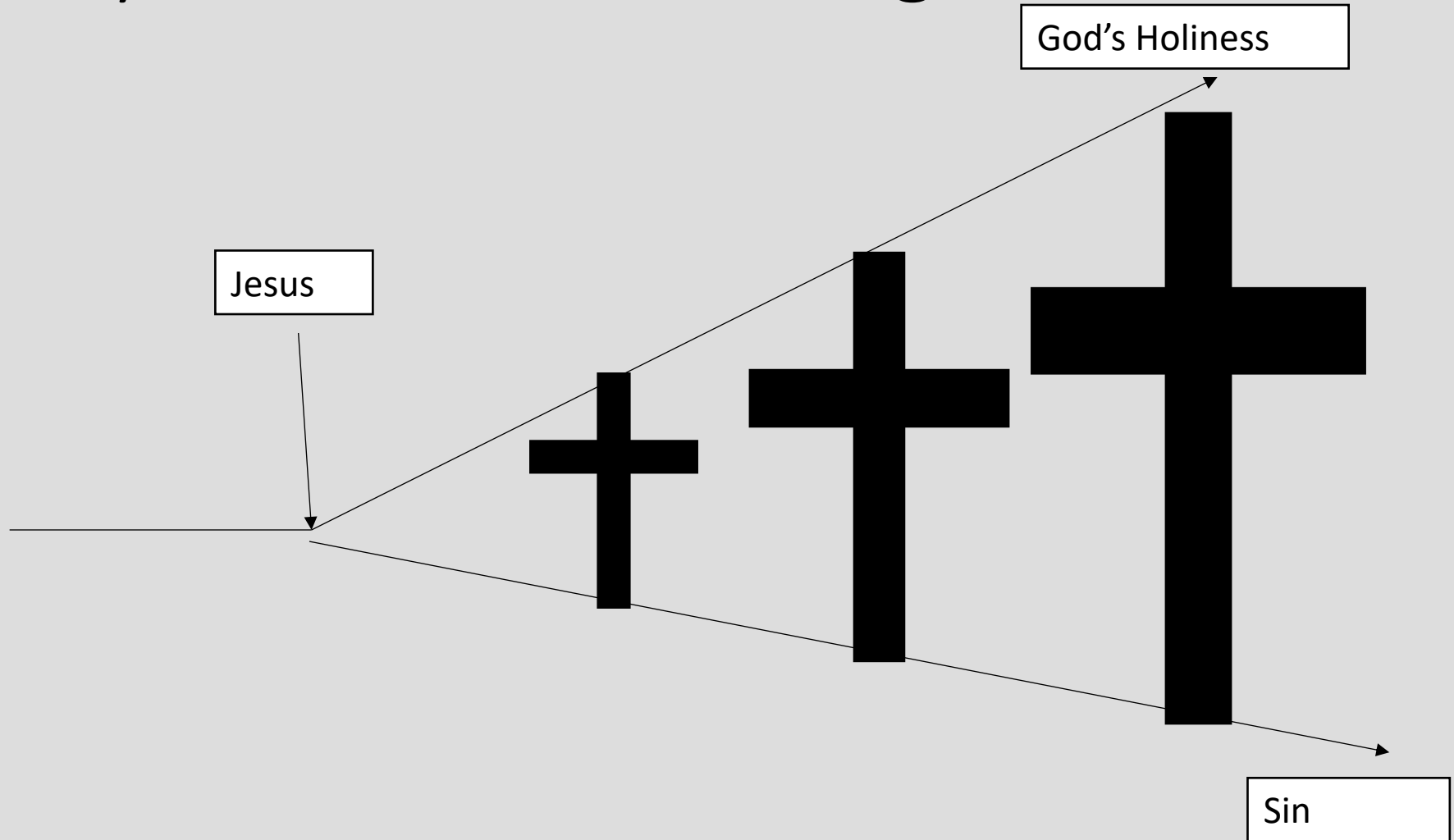
## Believe

- His Character
- His Competence
- His Capability
- His Providence
  - (Romans 3:26,5:6-11)
- His Provision (His Word)
- His Presence (Holy Spirit)

# Centrality of Christ

- Disciples are the “bride of Christ”
  - Assurance that we are loved
  - Say it out loud—“I am loved...no matter what.”
  - Show it with our life
- Ambassadors
  - 2 Corinthians 5:20
  - Representing the King to the World
  - We have a mission
  - Speak on his behalf
    - How do we live out our lives

# Centrality of Christ: Increasing Holiness





# Centrality of Christ

- Predominance of cross = Influence on our identity
- Increases our God-view thinking
- TRUE NORTH
- Results are less OUR focus and more HIS PEACE.

## Centrality of Christ

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:15,16

# Centrality of Christ

Ephesians 2:14-16

Psalms 29:11

Isaiah 26:3,4

Psalms 119:165

Philippians 4:7

Isaiah 32:18

# Centrality of Christ

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 14:27

# Centrality of Christ: Trust

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
And do **not** rely on your own understanding:  
Think about Him in all your ways,  
And He will guide you on the right paths.  
Proverbs 3:5,6

Trust...think and submit in all – Central - our  
all in all.