

A DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENT

AN ENVIRONMENT FOR GROWTH / CHANGE

- Factors
 1. Emphasis on learning, not perfection
 2. Willingness to take risks
 3. The ability to move past mistakes
- An overarching factor
 1. The reduction of fear
 2. People have tried to eliminate fear completely
 3. Another strategy is to increase our faith (*Matthew 8:26 NKJV*)

A LIFE CHANGING ENCOUNTER (Luke 19:1-10 NKJV)

- Motivated by money
 1. Zacchaeus was collecting tax money for the Romans
 2. Rich, hated - and not satisfied
- He had a desire to see Jesus
 1. He had heard about Jesus - He was a prophet from God
 2. His actions revealed what was in his heart
- Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus was a life-changer
 1. The fact that Jesus would speak to him and call him by name
 2. That Jesus would go stay at his house
 3. Zacchaeus made some major changes - giving / restoring

DEVELOPING A DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENT WHERE FAITH > FEAR

- Choose to believe God loves you - personally
 1. Sounds simplistic, but we have to move past...
 2. Believing absent from feelings (*1 John 4:16 NKJV*)
- Express your faith, not your fears / feelings
 1. Speaking fears does not get rid of fear (*Proverbs 18:21 NKJV*)
 2. Retrain ourselves to speak what we believe
- Make your relationship with the Lord very personal
 1. He loves you and gave His life for you
 2. Jesus will not force His way into our lives (*Revelations 3:20 NKJV*)
 3. Not just faith in a belief system or Scripture - faith in a person