

The Gift of Generosity

Luke 19:1-10 NLT

Jesus entered Jericho and made his way through the town. There was a man there named Zacchaeus. He was the chief tax collector in the region, and he had become very rich.

He tried to get a look at Jesus, but he was too short to see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree beside the road, for Jesus was going to pass that way.

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.”

Zacchaeus quickly climbed down and took Jesus to his house in great excitement and joy. But the people were displeased. "He has gone to be a guest of a notorious sinner," they grumbled.

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!"

Jesus responded, "Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save those who are lost."

Luke 19:1-10 NLT

The Gift of Presence



It makes us feel
CONNECTED

It makes us
feel LOVED

It makes us
feel VALUED

*For God so loved the world
that he gave his one and only
Son, that whoever believes in
him will not perish but have
everlasting life.*

- John 3:16

The true gift of
presence is being
MINDFUL

“More and more, the desire grows in me simply to walk around, greet people, enter their homes, sit on their doorsteps, play ball, throw water, and be known as someone who wants to live with them...”

“It is a privilege to have the time to practice this simple ministry of presence. Still, it is not as simple as it seems. My own desire to be useful, to do something significant, or to be part of some impressive project is so strong that soon...”

“...my time is taken up by meetings, conferences, study groups, and workshops...But I wonder more and more if the first thing shouldn't be to know people by name, to eat and drink with them, to listen to their stories and tell your own...”

“...and to let them know with words, handshakes, and hugs that you do not simply like them, but truly love them.”

- Henri Nouwen

The true gift of
presence is being
willing to be
VULNERABLE

The true gift of
presence is being
ready to SERVE