



OUR SEASON OF STEWARDSHIP

Each Sunday throughout this Season of Stewardship at St. George's (September 29th through October 27th), you will receive a card like this one in your worship bulletin. Each card will offer thoughts, prayers, meditations, or practical guidance on "**Shining Our Light.**" Fold it in half and stick it in your pocket or purse as a reminder throughout the week to **shine your light in your life and community** out of thanks for the gifts God gives you each day.

Concepts and text in this week's card adapted from The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (www.tens.org).



When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

~ John 8:12

St. George's Episcopal Church Austin, Texas

To pledge your financial gifts for 2020, complete a pledge card (in the pews and on the tables in the church) or pledge online at www.sgchurch.org/stewardship.

ZACCHAEUS: A MODEL FOR SPIRITUALLY MOTIVATED GIVING

We can view Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus as a model for stewardship if we look closely at the story.

What's the first thing we learn about Zacchaeus? "He wanted to see who Jesus was." He sought out Jesus. Before he knew anything, he was committed to finding out. We also know that he was rich and had the capacity to be generous. He also had a guilty conscience.

Jesus singles him out from the many in the crowd. "Zacchaeus, come down immediately." In spite of the fact that the people are critical of Jesus' paying attention to a rich sinner: "They muttered, He has gone to be the guest of a 'sinner.'"

Then Jesus makes a proposal: "I must stay at your home today." The use of the word "must" implies divine imperative. Zacchaeus welcomes Jesus gladly. And he takes action: Zacchaeus gives half of his assets to the poor and offers to pay four times the amount if he has cheated anyone – the most extreme repayment required under the law (Exodus 22:1; 2 Samuel 12:6).

Finally, Zacchaeus receives a spiritual reward. "Today salvation has come to this house." The community observers learn that even a rich sinner is part of the family: "This man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." Both the individual and the community are blessed by spiritually motivated giving.

SHINING OUR LIGHT

Jesus, You are the light that I long for and I will continue to follow You in good times and bad. Let Your Kingdom come, Lord, let Your will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven.

Thank You for Your Holy Spirit who reminds me to do what is good and pleasing to You. Almighty God, thank You for all that You have done and will continue to do.

I give all praise and glory to Your most Holy and Precious Name, Jesus! Hallelujah to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. SO BE IT... Amen and Amen!

We hope you find our upcoming offerings helpful as St. George's practices *Shining Our Light.*



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