

Discover your true capacity

Luke 19:1-10

When you read the scriptures do you ever wish you knew the rest of the story? In today's passage from Luke 19 we know that Zacchaeus climbed a tree to get a better view of Jesus passing by. And Jesus called his name and said he'd be coming to dinner. Sometime during that dinner Zacchaeus declared he would sell half his possessions and give to the poor, and he would make restitution for any unfair practices. What was it about that conversation with Jesus? How was Zacchaeus able to make such a turn around? Was being seen and valued by Jesus the catalyst that allowed him to see his true capacity?

Tuning into the presence of Christ in my life allows me to discover my true capacity. This is my usual arena, my comfort zone: writing and sharing messages and prayers, teaching, planning and leading worship. Several years ago I was asked to cook for a Yuletide retreat at Guthrie Grove. The director knew that I had been cook's helper with Roger and Hazel Smith for Senior High camp. Perhaps they thought I knew more about cooking than I actually did. But instead of immediately declining, I consulted with the empowering Christ. It felt like a go, so I signed on. This was more than just cooking. Menu planning, shopping, hauling the groceries and recruiting helpers were all part of the task. Pretty soon I cooked for another Yuletide, and Camp Just Do It, and SALT retreats. I learned a lot. It's important to remember that teenagers eat much more than SALT members! And if you need to make S'mores in an oven, do not place the top graham cracker until you remove the tray with the melted marshmallows or the tops will slide all over. Most important, I learned that providing physical nourishment is not so different from preparing spiritual food.

Cooking for retreats is no longer part of my true capacity. Age and arthritis have slowed me considerably. And this reminds me that discovering true capacity is not just about doing or giving more and more. It also includes recognizing valid limitations. Whether I am discerning growth or limits, as I turn to the One who knows me better than I know myself, I will better live out my true capacity.

MEDITATION QUESTION: How do you and Jesus seek and measure your true capacity?

PRAYER FOR PEACE

God of wholeness and possibility,

We thank you for leading us to recognize our true capacity and find ways of giving and serving that spread your peace in all our places. Today we pray for those not free to find or live their true capacity. So many are held back by poverty, hunger, lack of education, oppressive conditions, abuse, disease, war, natural disasters. Often it seems overwhelming and sometimes we, along with the sufferers, begin to lose hope. Renew our compassion and resolve. As you came to seek out and save the lost, let us continually join you in that mission, each in our own particular capacity.

In trust that your call will be magnified in our lives, AMEN.