



WONDER IN ALL

Worthy of Being Found

*a reflection by
Sierra Gore*

On our third date my now-fiancé, Jeremy, and I went to an improv comedy show. I picked the date and thought that laughing together would help ease the nervous energy we still had, or at least give us something to talk about. Jeremy had never seen live improv before so when I explained that sometimes the performers bring in people from the audience, he adamantly expressed that he hated being the center of attention and would never agree to it.

During the show Jeremy was called up to perform, and even though he thought he would be watching the whole performance, and he found himself invited to participate in a new way. Through watching him take on his fear, the entire audience was invited into connection, and joy and his bravery to change his mind gifted everyone with laughter.

Zacchaeus had a similar experience when he climbed a tree in anticipation of seeing Jesus. The idea of publically repenting or committing to make amends may have been his fear. Jesus never asked or suggested that Zacchaeus donate to the poor or right his wrongs, but rather Jesus offers him connection. By inviting himself to Zacchaeus' home, Jesus shows everyone that Zacchaeus is worthy of welcome.

It is this unexpected generosity of connection, or grace, that changes his heart. The opportunity to host Jesus also gives him the chance to hear the concerns of his community and move forward with generosity.

Jesus said, "the Son of Man came to seek out and save the lost," and we too have that opportunity whenever we build relationships, to say "yes" to a new experience, or give our time and talents in a way that will glorify God.

Through worship, prayers, celebrations, grieving, serving, laughing and more, we are reminded that none of us is meant to be alone. We are all worthy of being found and being welcomed. Our churches and ministries can be some of the richest connections where we are invited by Jesus to join in, even when we think we're only there to watch. By joining in we get to enjoy the unexpected generosity, grace, and joy that connection brings.

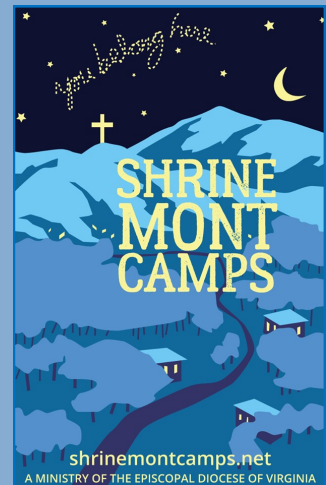
Sierra serves the Diocese as Project Coordinator and Program Director for Parish Youth Ministries. Born in southern Illinois, she has travelled across the country to follow her baptismal covenant in different Episcopal organizations, camps, and parishes. She is excited to now call Richmond home. Sierra enjoys improvising with ComedySportz Richmond, baking cakes, and playing board games with her fiancé, Jeremy.



November 3, 2019

Proper 26

Luke 19:1-10



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Reflection Questions

1. Where has the Holy Spirit invited you to join in when you first thought you'd be watching?
2. Where have you been called to use your gifts unexpectedly?
3. How has unexpected generosity led you into deeper connection?
4. Imagine a community that welcomes and gives like Jesus. How might it be similar to your community?

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