

Living in the Light
A sermon on All Saint's Day
Luke 19:1-10
Joe Hoffman
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There are some days when we really don't need many words. Where we can let the prayers and liturgy and the music and the memory fill us – and it is more than enough.

I want to say just a very few things.

A saint is one who helps us see God.

A saint is one who lives in the light of God.

A saint is one who lives life out loud

A saint is an every day person making every day mistakes, and also willing to learn and grow and change.

A saint is one who seeks to live every day in gratitude and joy.

A saint is not one necessarily who has done great things, but done what things he or she has done faithfully.

A saint is one who lives in the light.

I want to remind you of two stories – one that Amanda read this morning and one that comes a chapter before in the gospel of Luke. The first story is of the rich young ruler. You remember the story. He went up to Jesus and asked – how can I have eternal life? He was genuinely respectable and religious. He was honored by the community. His seeking Jesus seems to be very genuine, perhaps revealing an inner restlessness. A desire for something more. But he has many riches, and he is attached to those riches. When Jesus instructs that he give to the poor, he walks away sadly. It is hard for the rich to let go of their life of riches. Of their assurance of abundance. And so often when they cannot let go – when we cannot let go – we live in sadness.

Zaccheaus, chief tax collector, very rich, very corrupt. He represents the miracle that didn't happen with the rich young ruler. He lets go. He lives in the light. He who is dishonored in the community, he who is unhappy in life, he who is like a bully, he seeks out Jesus and receives Jesus joyfully. The time with Jesus transforms him. He joyfully and generously gives more than is asked of him.

On this All Saint's Day, I simply want to leave you with the contrast. Sadness versus joy. Idolatry versus freedom. God invites both of these people to life in all of its fullness. One says yes, and the other turns away sadly.

We are all invited to live life out loud. In the light. In the love, In the grace. In the hope. In the joy. Hear that invitation.

What might you need to let go of? Fear? Anger? Hurt? Control?

A saint helps us see God.
A saint lives in the light of God.
A saint trusts in God.
A saint lives life fully and out loud.

Do you want to be a saint too?