

Gathering of Leaders 2020  
Albuquerque, New Mexico  
**Bible Study**

It is twenty minutes before the stewardship campaign is supposed to kick off at your church, St. Financia of the Green Episcopal Church, in Parachute, Colorado. It is the wealthiest community in the entire nation. But sadly, while they give many, many hours of their time to the mission of the church, they give literally no money to the church, keeping all of it for themselves. The rector receives a phone call from the stewardship team who is stuck in traffic and unable to be there. To make matters worse, at that very moment, the phone cuts out because they are suddenly out of cell phone range. Unfortunately, they have all of the information that was supposed to be used for the presentation. A rescue is needed.

The rector turns to you, the vestry, who have come to hear the presentation and asks you to put together, in the next twenty minutes, a stewardship presentation based upon all or part of the pericope, Luke 14:25-35. She gives you full freedom in developing the presentation.

*Luke 14:25-35*

*25“Now large crowds were travelling with him; and he turned and said to them, 26‘Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. 27Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. 28For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? 29Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, 30saying, “This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.” 31Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? 32If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. 33So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.*

*34‘Salt is good; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? 35It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure heap; they throw it away. Let anyone with ears to hear listen!’”*

Information to explore:

1. What do these scriptures have to do with stewardship and/or discipleship?
2. Why would hating your family and life itself be part of the message of stewardship and discipleship? What are other inspirations and/or challenges within these scriptures?
3. Juxtapose this pericope from Luke with Leviticus 30:27, “All tithes from the land, whether the seed from the ground or the fruit from the tree, are the LORD’s; they are holy to the LORD,” and Exodus 23:19a, “The choicest of the first fruits of your ground you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God.” The rector encourages you to refrain hopefully from verse 19b of Exodus, “You shall not boil a kid in its mother’s milk.” Or, perhaps in the spirit of creativity, leave it in the discussion. Remember, she has given full freedom?
  - a. Which do we give, 10% or 100%?
4. What would you name the presentation and what point or points would you use in the presentation?
5. Just for fun, think of a movie, song, poem, or any creative art to connect with your presentation.

**Tick, tock....twenty minutes....the congregation and rector are waiting....GO!**