

Morning Prayer, Stewardship
October 27, 2024

In our reading from Mark this morning, Jesus heals a blind man: “Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.” As so often happens in scripture, the pronouns can be ambiguous: whose sight was regained, and who followed whom? But in this case, I think we can be pretty sure that because of his faith, the blind man regained his sight and with a grateful heart became a follower of Jesus.

Human reaction: cause and effect. I do something for you which motivates your desire to do something for me or someone else in return. And it can go either way. I can be nasty to you and you can’t wait to retaliate with something even nastier, or you bring me a gift and I frantically look around for something to give you.

“Tis the season” for talking about stewardship. I don’t want to tread on Cassie’s message, although a bit of overlap isn’t necessarily a bad thing: television and radio writers insist that you must recite the telephone number at least three times in the course of the ad if you want results.

What has God done for you lately? Or perhaps the question should be, what hasn’t God done for you lately? Recently I heard someone doing a stewardship pitch say that he had grown up in such and such a church and felt as though God was not answering his prayers and that’s what brought him to his present worship space. At first, I jumped to that old *caveat* that God doesn’t answer our prayers necessarily “the way we want God to, that God’s ways are not our ways,” and then I thought this guy just wasn’t listening. I think he was listening but perhaps not hearing and if that sent him elsewhere, fine. As we sit here in the Episcopal Church, listening to God, let’s hear what God is telling us about giving back. I’m thinking about what Robert and I spend on our own household – heating, lighting, food, water, outdoor/indoor maintenance – and thinking about how much time we or someone we hire spend to accomplish those tasks. And I’m reminded that all I have – Life is the big one – comes to me through God, God’s only Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit who breathes life into me every moment of every day. So what do I owe God?