

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 16:19–31

‘You received good things, and Lazarus bad things; now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.’

At that time: Jesus said to the Pharisees, ‘There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.” But Abraham said, “Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not do so, and none may cross from there to us.” And he said, “Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house – for I have five brothers – so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.” But Abraham said, “They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.” And he said, “No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.” He said to him, “If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.” ’

Reflection

In today’s Gospel (Luke 16:19–31), Jesus tells the story of a rich man and a poor man named Lazarus. The rich man lives in luxury, while Lazarus suffers outside his gate, longing for scraps from the rich man’s table. When they both die, Lazarus is comforted in heaven, but the rich man is in torment. He begs for mercy, but Abraham reminds him that the time for help has passed, and it’s too late to change his fate.

This story challenges us to reflect on how we live our lives and treat those in need. The rich man’s mistake wasn’t his wealth, but his failure to care for those around him, especially Lazarus. He ignored the suffering at his doorstep. The message is clear: we cannot simply live in comfort while others suffer. We are called to see, care for, and act to help those in need.

Materials needed

Sticky notes and pens

Activity

Spend some time reflecting on who it is in your community that may feel on the outside.

Who might be like Lazarus at our gate today?

Each person writes or draws an example on a sticky note.

Then for each example, come up with an answer to the question: *What could we do to open the gate for this person/group?*

You now have a list of people and situations that may need your support, and ways that you can help them. The next step is to plan how you can put this into action.

Call to Action

This week, choose one person or group we named as being ‘at the gate’ such as the lonely classmate, someone who is homeless, or a refugee. Take one real step to open the gate: start a conversation, share your lunch, bring an item for a charity collection, or include them in something you are doing.

