

March 20, 2025

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Lent



Center for Spiritual Development

A LUKAN PARABLE FOR TODAY

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Today's Gospel

Jesus said to the Pharisees: "There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even used to come and lick his sores. When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.' Abraham replied, 'My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.' He said, 'Then I beg

you, father, send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they too come to this place of torment.' But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.' He said, 'Oh no, Father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'"

LUKE 16:19-31

Reflection

Today's parable of a rich man, sometimes called "Dives," and the suffering Lazarus at his door sets before us an invitation to open our eyes to the reality in our world today. There are the ultra-rich who have more than they will ever need -- and they do not appear to see the millions who are starving, homeless, suffering and dying on the streets of our cities, as well as in faraway places that have been ravaged by constant wars and drought-caused famine. It makes me wonder why we human beings are caught in the desperate grip of accumulating greater wealth on the backs of people who are desperate for a roof over their head, food for their family and the human dignity of work.

Jesus' parable of the rich man and Lazarus shows the failure of the rich man to care for Lazarus at his door. It was the teaching of the Hebrew Bible and Jesus himself to care for the poor and those in need around us. Was it that Dives did not see Lazarus at his door as he passed by, dressed in his fine purple garments? If Dives had offered at least some measure of care for Lazarus, that could have shown that he repented of his self-centered way of life.

What is Jesus saying to me? Is he trying to jolt me into taking seriously his teachings to care for the impoverished living in desperate circumstances like the man sitting outside the local CVS?



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For Pondering

- Where do I find myself in the story?
- What part of me is like the rich man, focused on food and drink and my own comfort, while the neglected suffer around me?
- Who is the Lazarus at my door?

- How is Jesus calling me to love the “dear neighbor” in my midst?
 - Could the suffering person at my doorstep be the crucified, suffering Christ, waiting for me?
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For Prayer

*See Him, silent and lifeless.
See Him, alone and forlorn.
See Him, broken and helpless,
crowned with a garland of thorn.*

*See Him, as son and as brother.
See Him, related to all.
See Him, through the grief of a mother,
hurting the most of all.*

*See Him, as healer and teacher.
See Him, as helper and friend.
See Him, as prophet and preacher.
Ignore Him, I doubt if you can.*

**“SEE HIM” BY KEITH DUKE FROM THE ALBUM,
SACRED DANCE CELTIC MUSIC FROM LINDISFARNE**

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