

Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

September 25, 2016

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Psalms 146

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Luke 16:19-31



Lazarus & The Rich Man

Trading Places. *Object: Pictures of a movie star and a famous athlete, a hand full of dollar bills, a sign that says, "Hungry, will work for food."*

Have you ever wished you could trade places with someone? If you could trade places with anyone you chose, who would you choose?

- A movie star?
- A famous athlete?
- Someone with a lot of money?
- The homeless person that begs beside the road?

"Wait a minute," you are probably thinking. "Who would dream of changing places with a homeless person who begs beside the road?" Well, it might not be what a person would wish for, but that is exactly what one person wanted in our Bible lesson today. It is the story of the rich man and Lazarus.

There once was a rich man, expensively dressed in clothes of the latest fashion. He lived in a beautiful house and ate the very best food. A poor man named Lazarus, all covered with sores, had been put outside the door of the rich man's house. All he wanted was a meal from scraps off the rich man's table. Dogs that passed by him stopped and licked his sores. Do you think the rich man ever offered to share the food from his table? Did he ever stop to offer Lazarus one of his nice suits of clothes that perhaps was in last year's style? No way! He passed by Lazarus as if he wasn't even there.

Finally, Lazarus died and was carried by angels up into Heaven to be with Abraham. There he enjoyed all of the comforts that he never knew when he was on earth. He was happier than you can imagine. The rich man also died and was buried. Well, the place where the rich man went was really hot. I am sure you can guess where that was! He was miserable. The rich man looked up into Heaven and saw Abraham with Lazarus standing by his side. He cried out, "Father Abraham, send Lazarus down and let him dip his finger in water to cool my tongue." Abraham answered, "Don't forget that when you were living you had all your good things and Lazarus had nothing. Now he is well cared for and you are in great pain. And besides, there is a deep ditch between us, and no one from either side can cross over."

Even though he didn't have very much when he was on earth, Lazarus trusted in God to take care of him. That is what God did. He sent his angels to take Lazarus to Heaven. The rich

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. You know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. Alleluia

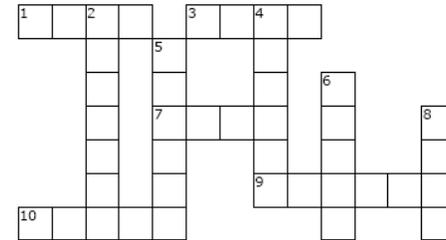
man, on the other hand, didn't think he needed anyone. He sure didn't need God. He had everything that he needed. At least, that is what he thought.

There is an important lesson to be learned from the story of the rich man and Lazarus. You and I choose where we will place our trust. We can trust in God or we can trust in ourselves.

Father, we trust in your unfailing love; our hearts rejoice in your salvation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

1. Having a lot of money or valuable possessions
3. To tell someone of possible danger or harm
7. An opening in a wall or fence for entrance or exit
9. The fleshy part in the mouth that is used in tasting
10. A clear, colorless, odorless, and tasteless liquid essential for most plant and animal life

DOWN

2. To soothe someone in a time of pain or suffering
4. To change your behavior because you are sorry for what you have done
5. A poor person who lives by asking others for money or food
6. Extreme physical or mental pain or suffering
8. Stopped living

warn	died	comfort	water	gate
agony	rich	tongue	beggar	repent

HEAVEN MOBILE: Use blue poster board with blue yarn hanging from a blue hanger (if possible). Make 3 round blue poster board circles and let the child glue cotton balls on it and make a mobile to remind them of heaven where Lazarus went! Additional blue circles could be added to the "mobile" for words about HEAVEN, ANGELS, etc.

POPSICLE STICK PEOPLE: Use popsicle sticks, purple cloth or felt for a stick puppet to represent the rich man. Use popsicle sticks and "burlap-type" or brown felt material for Lazarus. Use little white Styrofoam balls for their heads and decorate. Let the child review the story using their stick puppets.

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

LUKE 16:19-31

