

Take Care of People Who Are Poor

One day,

our Lord Jesus told a story. He said, "Once there was a rich man. He dressed in fancy clothes and ate big feasts every day. At the man's gate, there was a poor man named Lazarus. His body had sores on it that dogs sometimes licked. He wished for food that fell from the rich man's table.

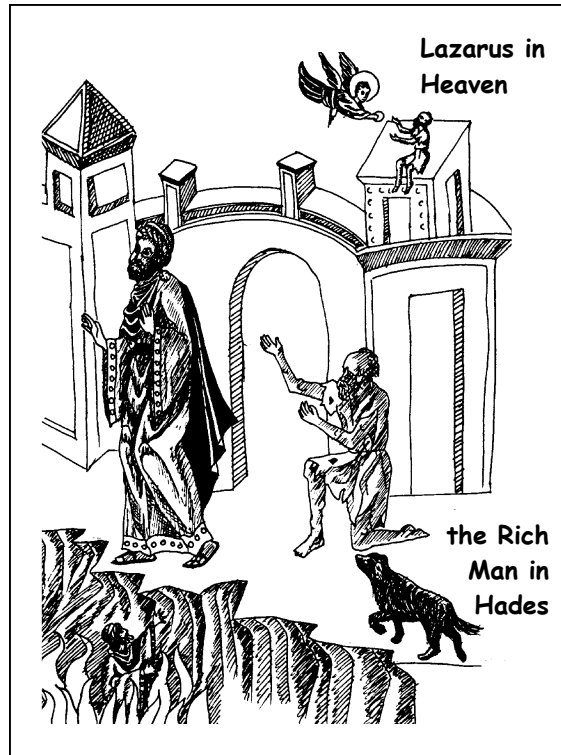
"One day, Lazarus died. The angels came and took him to be with Abraham. The rich man died, too. He was in Hades, and he was miserable. The rich man could see Lazarus with Abraham. He asked Abraham to send Lazarus to dip his finger in water to cool his tongue.

"But Abraham reminded the rich man that he had many good things when he was alive, but he had ignored Lazarus at his gate.

"The rich man listened carefully. Since Lazarus couldn't help him, he begged Abraham to send Lazarus

to warn his five brothers so they wouldn't be greedy and end up in Hades, too. Abraham told the rich man that his brothers should listen to Moses and the prophets' teachings so they could be saved. The rich man did not think they would pay attention to those teachings, but they would obey someone who came back from the dead.

"But Abraham said, 'If they won't listen to Moses and the prophets, they would not stop being selfish even if Lazarus came back from the dead to talk to them.'"



Thinking About God's Word . . .

1. At the beginning of the Lord's story, what did the rich man wear? What did he eat? What about Lazarus?
2. What happened to Lazarus when he died?
3. Was the rich man happy when he died? Why or why not?
4. Why didn't Abraham send Lazarus back to warn the rich man's brothers?
5. Would you like to be like the rich man or Lazarus in this story?



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Next week
Jesus Teaches Us
To Care for Others

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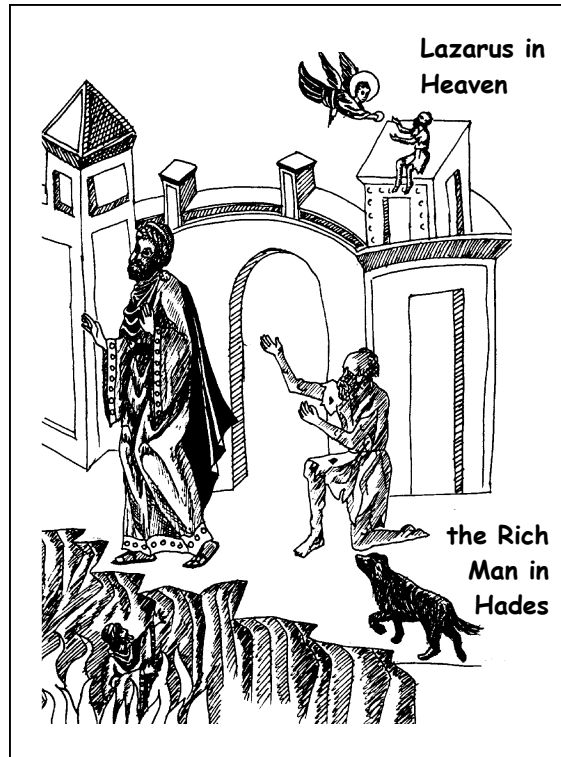
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The Rich Man and Lazarus

The Lord said,

“There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table; moreover, the dogs came and licked his sores.

“The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. 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 in his bosom. And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy upon 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, ‘Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil 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 be able, 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 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 some one 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 some one should rise from the dead.’”



Thinking About God’s Word . . . Luke 16:19-31

1. How does our Lord contrast the rich man and Lazarus at the beginning of the story?
2. To where do the angels carry Lazarus?
3. When did Lazarus suffer evil things? When did the rich man suffer?
4. Why do you think our Lord gave Lazarus a name in the story, but not the rich man?
5. What can we learn from the rich man and Lazarus? Who would you like to be like?



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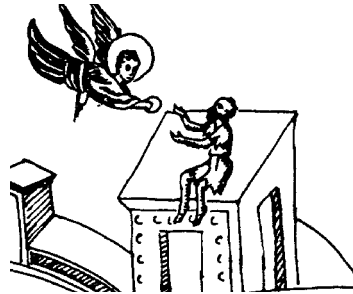
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Focus questions

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Next week: Who Is My Neighbor?



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23rd Sunday after Pentecost
Luke 9:16-31

Grades: High School
November 4, 2007

The Rich Man and Lazarus

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