

Bringing it Home For Sunday, September 28, 2025

By Allison de Kanel



Good teachers sometimes tell stories to help us remember something. For example, I remember that George Washington was honest, because he told the truth when his father asked him if he chopped down a cherry tree.

Jesus was a very good teacher, and he told a lot of stories. In today's Bible story, Jesus told a story about two men. One was a poor man, named Lazarus, and the other was a very rich man.

Parts of the story are sad. Lazarus was sick and hungry, but the rich man didn't help him, even though they were neighbors. Even dogs were kinder to Lazarus than the rich man was.

Eventually both men died. Lazarus went to paradise, but the rich man didn't. He was miserable, and wanted Lazarus to help him, but that wasn't possible.

What do you think Jesus wants us to remember from this story? Not that dogs are kind, or that poor people are good and rich people are bad.

Jesus wants us to remember what we learn from the Bible about how to treat each other. We should love our neighbors, feed the hungry, and visit the sick and lonely.

We can't do all of these things by ourselves, but when we come together, like we do in church, we can each do our part.

Let's pray. Dear Jesus, thank you for teaching us how to treat each other. Amen.

Today's Gospel: Luke 16: 19-31

Jesus said, "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house-- for I have five brothers-- that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' 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 listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Artwork: Stained Glass Roundel with Lazarus at the House of Dives, ("Dives" is Latin for Rich Man.) ca. 1520, South Netherlandish, from The Cloisters Collection, of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY.