

Year C - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 16:19-31

Good things came to you and bad things to Lazarus; now he is comforted while you are in agony.



Jesus told his disciples this story:

"There was once a rich man who wore expensive clothes and every day ate the best food. But a poor beggar named Lazarus was brought to the gate of the rich man's house. He was happy just to eat the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. "His body was covered with sores, and dogs kept coming up to lick them. The poor man died, and angels took him to the place of honour next to Abraham. "The rich man also died and was buried. He went to hell and was suffering terribly. When he looked up and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side, he said to Abraham, 'Have pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip his finger in water and touch my tongue. I'm suffering terribly in this fire.'

Abraham answered,

'My friend, remember that while you lived, you had everything good, and Lazarus had everything bad. Now he is happy, and you are in pain. And besides, there is a deep ditch between us, and no one from either side can cross over.' "But the rich man said, Abraham, then please send Lazarus to my father's home. Let him warn my five brothers, so they won't come to this horrible place.' "Abraham answered, 'Your brothers can read what Moses and the prophets wrote. They should pay attention to that.' "Then the rich man said, 'No, that's not enough! If only someone from the dead would go to them, they would listen and turn to God.' "So Abraham said, 'If they won't pay attention to Moses and the prophets, they won't listen even to someone who comes back from the dead.'





Introduction: Begin with a short story:

There was a pond at the bottom of a large garden. A dragonfly laid its eggs in this pond and flew away. The eggs hatched and became larvae and they had a happy life swimming around the pond under the surface. But then, they noticed that something strange would happen to the older larvae who hatched before them. They would begin to swim upwards getting closer to the surface until finally they broke through, and they would never see them again. The younger larvae were all trying to work out what happened on the other side and couldn't figure it out. So the younger larvae made a deal with each another, if one of them made it to the other side they would come back and tell the others what it was like. One day one of the younger larvae felt something strange inside, he had a sudden urge to swim upwards, he just couldn't stop himself! 'This is it,' he thought 'I'm going to the other side!' Finally, he reached the top of the pond and broke through the other side! First all he could see was a bright white light, then when his eyes adjusted he could see the great garden. He saw the tall trees, the bright flowers, he saw the other butterflies and dragonflies zooming around in the bright sunshine, everything was so beautiful. 'I have to tell my friends!' he said to himself. He went back to the pond and flew towards the surface, but when he reached the water he bounced back off the surface. He tried again and again but each time he could not get through. There was no way to get through, his friends just have to wait and see for themselves.



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Message:

- In the Gospel today, we hear about a rich man who wanted to go back and warn his brothers what would happen to them if they didn't change their ways. But like the dragonflies in the story he and Lazarus couldn't go back.
- But unlike the dragonflies, we already know a bit about what awaits us. We have been told about the great things God has in store for those who love.
- We can read about it in the bible; read the messages from the old prophets, the stories of Jesus' life and from the letters from the disciples to the new believers.
- We can learn about it from the lives of the saints who have gone before us, and we can ask others about what they know about what God has in store for those who love him.

Discussion Questions:

- What do you already know about God?
- Who are others you could ask to learn more?
- How do you think God wants you to live your life?

