

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3

Psalm 103:1-5, 20-22

Bless the Lord, you angels, all you hosts of God. (vv20, 21)

Revelation 12:7-12

Luke 16:19-21

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Everlasting God, you have wonderfully established the ministries of angels & mortals. Mercifully grant that as Michael & the angels contend against the cosmic forces of evil, so by your direction they may help & defend us here on earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God whom we worship & praise with angels & archangels & all the company of heaven, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Luke 16:19-31

[Jesus said:] ¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple & fine linen & who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come & lick his sores. ²²The poor man died & was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died & was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up & saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, & send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water & cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, & Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, & you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you & us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, & no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house—²⁸for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses & the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses & the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. What do *Matthew* 28:1-4, 11-15; *Luke* 24:13-27, 36-40, 44-48; *John* 5:24-29, 37-47; *Acts* 3:12-26, 4:13-21, 13:26-48, 17:16-32 add to vv30-31?
2. How does this parable help illustrate Jesus’ following teachings? See *Matthew* 7:15-20, 19:27-30; *Luke* 6:43-45, 12:13-31; 13:22-30, 18:18-30, 20:45-47; *John* 15:5-6; see also *James* 2:15-17; *1 John* 3:17-19; note: the name Lazarus means “God is my help.”

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Consider *Psalm* 91 esp. vv11-12 & *Small Catechism*: Daily Prayers. What comfort do you find in having a “guardian angel” fighting evil to keep Satan’s claws off you? **SC** & **FC** (see #5) available bookofconcord.org
4. Jesus’ parable isn’t here to teach us about “life after death” or just what happens when we die, per se. (But notice neither man turns into an angel.) How does the bigger barns parable fit in (*Luke* 12:13-21)? How does the parable cause you to reflect on Using God’s Gifts For God’s Purposes? How will returning your stewardship commitment help you UGGFGP?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. This parable reminds us that Jesus will come again to judge the living & the dead (cf. *Matthew* 25:31-46). Jesus knows that some folks will resist any reasoning or dramatic events (vv29-31). List at least 5 people in your everyday life that you will pray for daily until the Holy Spirit unplugs their ears & softens their hearts for saving faith? See *Formula of Concord: Epitome XI:12*
6. This parable calls for mercy in everyday life that God will reward, even when the world won’t. Where in your community can “Lazarus” be found (v20)? Where can even crumbs (vv19, 21) be found for him?

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Festival of St. Michael & All Angels

09.25.22

Series: Celebrating God's Gifts

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Mercy from On High

Dives drowns in indulgence while Lazarus is exalted in mercy

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, & Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, & you are in agony. (v25)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Bless the Lord, you angels, you mighty ones
who do God's bidding. (*Psalm 103:20*)

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