

# Two Lenten Parables

## Luke 16:19-31

There was a rich man who dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day.

And at the 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'.

The man who had been rich 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.'

Abraham 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.'

## Matthew 18:23-35

The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves.

When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him;

and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.

So the slave fell on his knees before him saying,

'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'

And out of pity, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat, he said,

'Pay what you owe.'

Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him.

'Have patience with me and I will pay you.'

But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.

When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place.

Then his lord summoned him and said to him,

'You wicked slave!

I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?'

And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.

So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you

if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.