



5th Sunday of Luke

The Reading is from Luke 16:19-31

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 Lazaros, 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 Lazaros in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazaros 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 Lazaros 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 also 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 them, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.'"

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Fourth Tone

When the women Disciples of the Lord had learned from the Angel the joyful message of the Resurrection and had rejected the ancestral decision, they cried aloud to the Apostles triumphantly: Death has been despoiled, Christ God has risen, granting His great mercy to the world.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Second Tone

O Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the creator most constant: O despise not the voices of those who have sinned; but be quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, O thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

Discussion

This lesson really teaches how to look at those around us and to look for opportunities to help others.

The hard truth is that, if we are not sharing our lives and blessings with others in some way, we will become just like the rich man who was too caught up with his own pleasure to worry about poor Lazarus. We know where that path leads. The good news is that Christ has shown us a better way which is open to us in every generation, in every walk of life, no matter how rich or poor we are. For the money and power of the world will fade away; they do not last. Only one thing lasts, and that is the selfless love of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ Who has conquered sin and death.

Our Lord tells us on every page of the Gospels how we are to act, how we are to live, and if we do not try to live in that way, yes, we will be judged. We can see something of this judgment in this parable.

St. Theophylactos points out that the rich man did not just live; he lived well. He did not just eat, he feasted sumptuously, not occasionally but each day. He did not simply dress but wore purple (a royal color) and fine linen. And he ignored Lazarus, who had nothing and would have been satisfied with very little. Not only did Lazarus have nothing but he lay where he could constantly see how much the rich man had.

Let's pray that we never become so insensitive to the needs of others that we become dead to what Christ teaches us about love for our brethren and service to His Creation.

Lazarus suffered during his mortal life through his actions/attitude Christ is teaching us how to act when we are best by troubles, problems and suffering. Did Lazarus blaspheme? Did he revile the rich man? No, he endured all things patiently. This truly led to his salvation.

How can you get to heaven? Be patient:

With regard to patience, St. John Cassian writes: 'The advantage that illness can sometimes present appears quite clearly with the beatitude illustrated by the poor, ulcerated Lazarus. Scripture makes no mention at all in his regard of any virtue. His great patience in supporting his poverty and illness alone merits the blessed fortune to be admitted into the bosom of Abraham.'

It should be noted that Lazarus is remembered by name in this parable while the rich man is unnamed. So it is with those in God's favor: they are remembered. This is why we say "May their memories be eternal" when we refer to the departed. Truly blessed are those in eternal memory!

Here's a link to a related video lesson:

<https://www.goarch.org/-/be-the-bee-148-do-we-act-like-christians-?inheritRedirect=true>