

TAKE CARE OF THE POOR

One day, our Lord Jesus told a story.

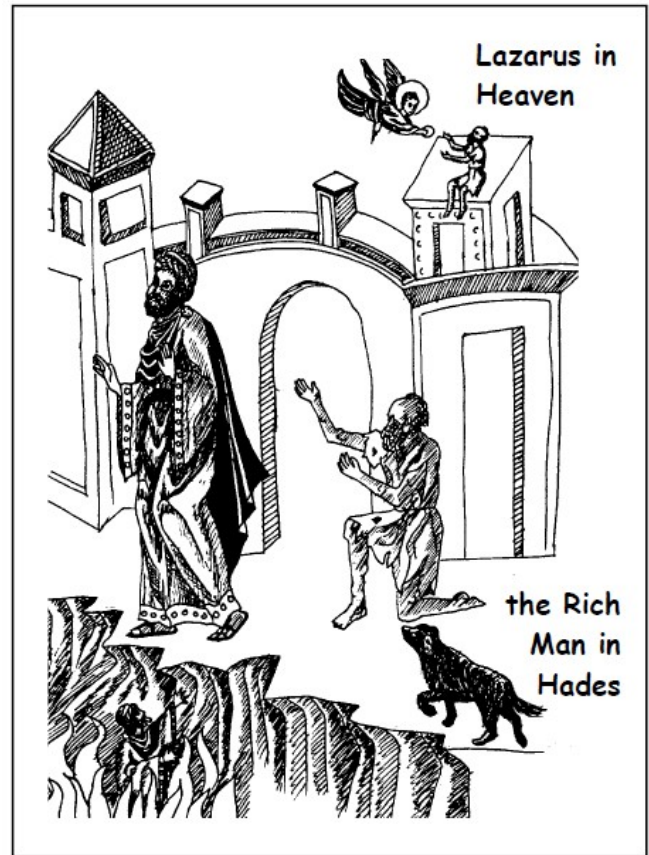
There was a rich man who had lots of food and fancy clothes. A poor man, named Lazarus, used to sit outside the gate of his yard. He wished he could be given just the scraps of food that fell from the rich man's table at dinner.

It seemed as if the rich man had everything. One day Lazarus died. He was carried to heaven and had a place next to blessed Abraham.

One day the rich man died. He was not in heaven, but rather, miserable in Hades. He looked over and saw Lazarus. He called to Abraham, "Have mercy on me and send Lazarus to bring me water."

Abraham said to the rich man, "Remember how you had everything in your life, and Lazarus was poor? You did nothing to help him. He can not cross over to us, nor can you cross over here."

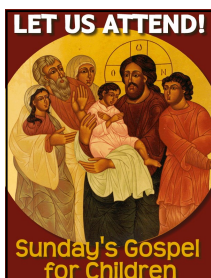
The rich man said, "Please send him to tell my brothers how they should live!" Abraham said, "They have learned that God wants us to care for the poor. They choose not to see."



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. In the drawing above, can you find the rich man? Can you find Lazarus, the poor man?
2. At the top of the drawing, look for an angel. The angel is giving food to Lazarus. This tells us that Lazarus had all he ever wanted in heaven.
3. We can help poor people. Ask your mother or father how you can help. Some of the money in the church collection also goes to feed the poor.
4. Jesus wants us to share what he has given to us. When we share, we show God that we understand this lesson.



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Pre-12



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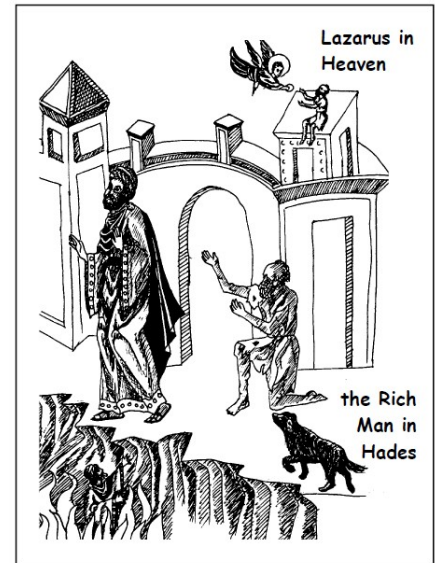
TAKE CARE OF THE POOR

Materials

- peanut can, or other cylindrical container to be used as a tithing bank
- construction paper
- tape or glue
- scissors
- crayons, colored pencils, or markers
- 10 dimes
- pack of M & Ms, goldfish, raisins or other small food item that your child likes
- snack size baggie

Procedure


1. After reading the Gospel story to your child, take time to review the discussion questions following the story.
2. Remind your child that everything we have is a gift from God. Because these things are from God, it is important to remember to share and give to others who are less fortunate than us. One way that we can give is by tithing at church each Sunday during Liturgy. Some of this money is used to feed and clothe the poor and needy. Tell your child that when we tithe, we are to give 1/10th of what we have.
3. Give your child the pack of M&Ms or other selected food item. Help your child count out the food in rows of 10.
4. Give your child the snack size baggie. Ask your child to take one M&M from each row to place in the baggie.
5. Tell your child that everything they put in the baggie is 1/10th of the original pack of M&Ms. This is how much we are asked to tithe. When they look at how much they have left for themselves, it's easy to see that they still have plenty leftover. We should be happy to tithe and never be so greedy that we feel that we need to keep everything for ourselves. Allow your child to choose someone (brother, sister, friend, or parent) to give the tithed amount of M&Ms.
6. On the lid of the peanut can, pre-cut a slit large enough to allow coins to pass through.
7. Pre-cut the construction paper to fit the height of the can.
8. On the piece of construction paper, help your child write the words, "Tithing Bank". Allow your child to draw pictures of people giving food, money and clothes to the poor.
9. Tape or glue the construction paper around the can.
10. Give your child 10 dimes. Remind your child that whenever they receive or earn money, they need to keep 1/10th for tithing. Allow your child to put one of the dimes in their tithing bank. The remaining 9 dimes can be used for whatever your child chooses.



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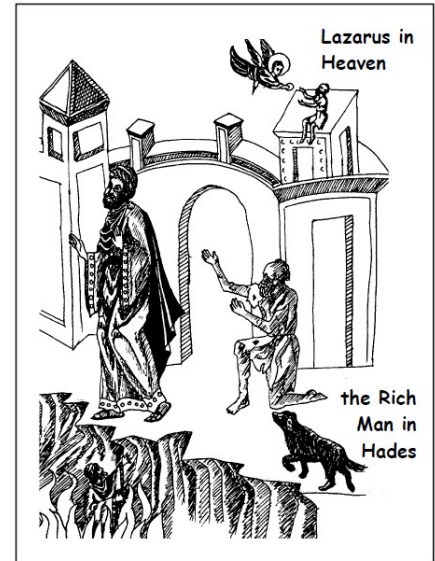
TAKE CARE OF THE POOR

One day, our Lord Jesus told a story. He said, "Once there was a rich man. He dressed in fancy clothes and ate big feasts every day. At the man's gate, there was a poor man named Lazarus. His body had sores on it that dogs sometimes licked. He wished for food that fell from the rich man's table.

"One day, Lazarus died. The angels came and took him to be with Abraham. The rich man died, too. He was in Hades, and he was miserable. The rich man could see Lazarus with Abraham. He asked Abraham to send Lazarus to dip his finger in water to cool his tongue.

"But Abraham reminded the rich man that he had many good things when he was alive, but he had ignored Lazarus at his gate. The rich man listened carefully. Since Lazarus couldn't help him, he begged Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his five brothers so they wouldn't be greedy and end up in Hades, too. Abraham told the rich man that his brothers should listen to Moses and the prophets' teachings so they could be saved. The rich man did not think they would pay attention to those teachings, but they would obey someone who came back from the dead.

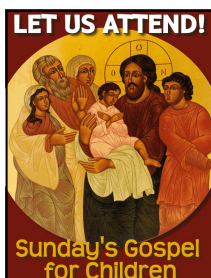
"But Abraham said, 'If they won't listen to Moses and the prophets, they would not stop being selfish even if Lazarus came back from the dead to talk to them.'"



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. At the beginning of the Lord's story, what did the rich man wear? What did he eat?
2. What about Lazarus?
3. What happened to Lazarus when he died? Was the rich man happy when he died? Why or why not?
4. Why didn't Abraham send Lazarus back to warn the rich man's brothers?
5. Would you like to be the rich man or Lazarus in this story?



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THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

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 Lazarus, 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 Lazarus in his bosom.

And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus 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 Lazarus 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 come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’

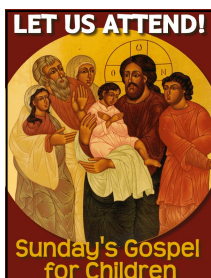
And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”



Image courtesy of sxc.hu

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How does our Lord contrast the rich man and Lazarus at the beginning of the story?
2. To where do the angels carry Lazarus?
3. When did Lazarus suffer evil things? When did the rich man suffer?
4. Why do you think our Lord gave Lazarus a name in this story, but not the rich man?
5. What can we learn from the rich man and Lazarus? Who would you like to be like?



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Characters: Narrator, Jesus, Rich Man,
Abraham

Narrator: The Lord said,

Jesus: 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 Lazarus, 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 Lazarus in his bosom.

Jesus: And he called out,

Rich Man: Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.

Jesus: But Abraham said,

Abraham: Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus 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.

Jesus: And he said,

Rich Man: 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 come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said,

Abraham: They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

Jesus: And he said,

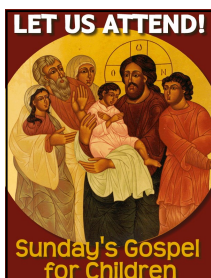
Rich Man: No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.

Jesus: He said to him,

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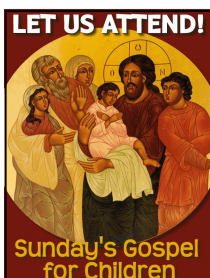
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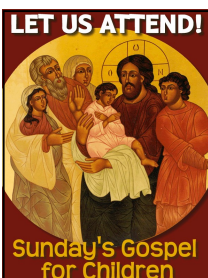


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And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What did the rich man wear? Do you think his clothing was comfortable? Fashionable?
2. What do you think Lazarus’s clothes were like? Do you think his clothes were comfortable or fashionable?
3. Which person’s clothes do you think your clothes resemble?
4. What responsibility for Lazarus did the rich man have while he was alive? Did he carry out that responsibility? What was the result of his neglect?
5. Who do you have a responsibility to care for? What can you do to help him or her?
6. How can taking care of someone else’s needs change you?



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