

TAKE CARE OF THE POOR

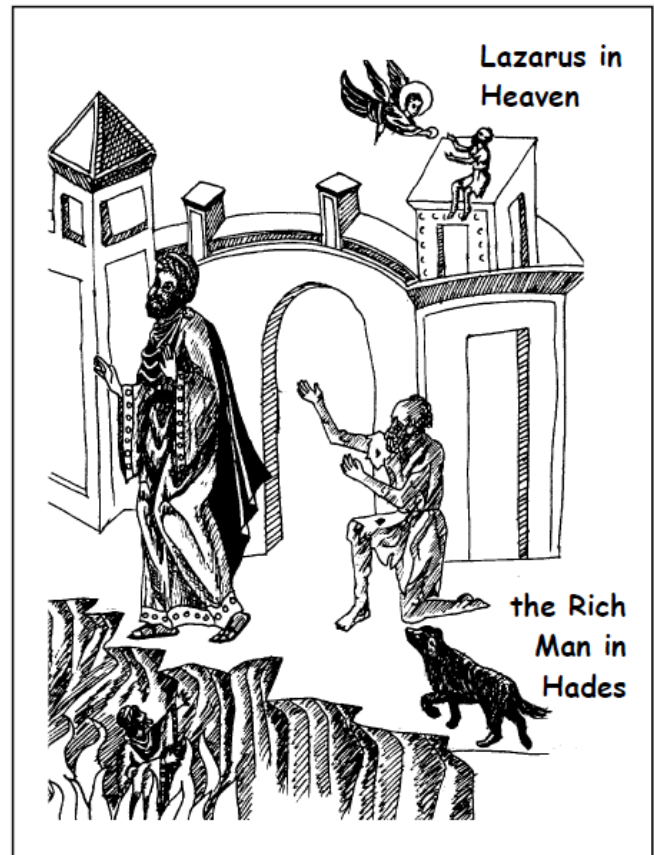
The Lord told this story, There was a rich man who had lots of food and fancy clothes. A poor man, named Lazarus, used to sit outside the gate of his yard. He wished he could be given just the scraps of food that fell from the rich man's table at dinner.

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."

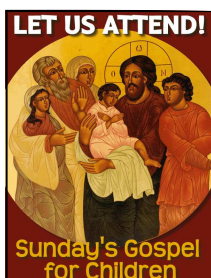
The rich man said, "Please send him to tell my brothers how they should live!" Abraham said, "They have learned that God wants us to care for the poor. They choose not to see."



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. At the beginning of the Lord's story, what did the rich man wear? What did he eat? What about Lazarus?
2. What happened to Lazarus when he died?
3. 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 like the rich man or Lazarus in this story?



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Pre-12

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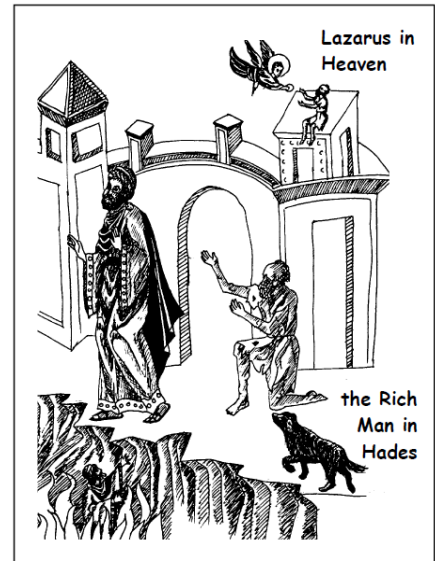
TAKE CARE OF THE POOR

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.

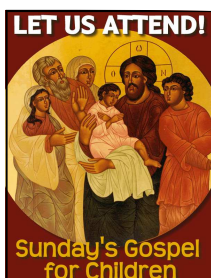
“But Abraham said, ‘If they won’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they would not stop being selfish even if Lazarus came back from the dead to talk to them.’”



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Look at the icon of this Gospel story. Can you find the rich man? Can you find Lazarus, the poor man?
2. In the icon, look for an angel. The angel is giving food to Lazarus. This tells us that even though he was poor and had nothing when he lived on earth, Lazarus has all he ever wanted in Heaven.
3. There are many poor people living on earth. We can help them. Ask your mother or father how you can help. Some of the money in the Church collection goes to feed the poor.
4. Everything we have comes from God. How do we say “thank you” to God? We share what we have.



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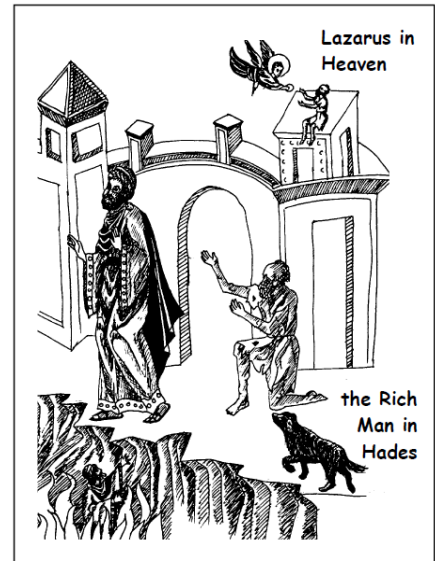
THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

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.’

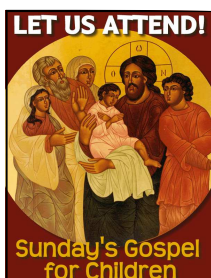
And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Where does the poor man, Lazarus, go when he dies? How does he get there?
2. Why is Lazarus comforted by Abraham?
3. Ask your godparents the following questions: Who is Abraham? What did God promise to Abraham and his descendants?
4. When does the rich man receive his good things? What about Lazarus? When would you rather be comforted? On earth, or in Heaven?
5. Look around you. Is there anyone near you that needs food or other help? Are you responding to their need like the rich man did to Lazarus? Or are you sharing what you have, to help them?



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THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

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,

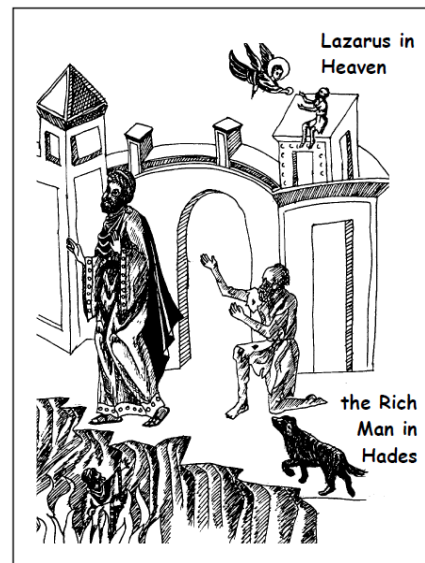
Abraham: They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

Jesus: And he said,

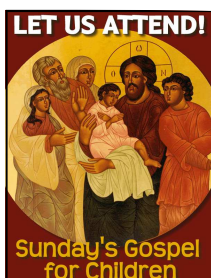
Rich Man: No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.

Jesus: He said to him,

Abraham: If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.



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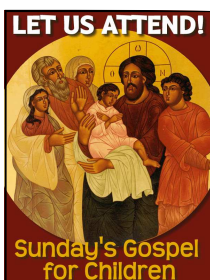
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prophets; let them hear them.'

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

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 the story, but not the rich man?
5. What can we learn from the rich man and Lazarus? Who would you like to be like? Why?



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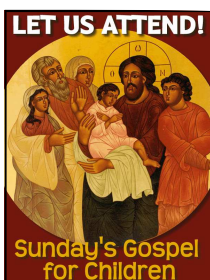


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