

Catechism Lesson for Adults and Teens
5th Sunday of Luke
The Rich Man and Lazarus

Read the Gospel Passage. Luke 16:19-31

Contextual Background:

-Abraham is considered the patriarch of the Jews, the first that God called and made a covenant with. Being in “Abraham’s bosom” in the parable is considered to be in heaven, to be with all righteous ancestors, and to enjoy God’s warmth and splendor

-Dogs were not viewed as highly back then as we view them today, and calling someone “a dog” was insulting. And yet these dogs were the only piece of compassion Lazarus experienced; the saliva of the dogs actually has an antibacterial property, and the licking of the sore would promote blood flow to the sore.

Discussion Questions:

1. What were some of the nice things that the rich man enjoyed in his life?
(MULTIPLE ANSWERS)
 - a. He wore purple linens
 - b. He ate well every day
2. What were some of the pieces of suffering Lazarus endured in his life?
(MULTIPLE ANSWERS)
 - a. He was so hungry he desired “scraps” from the rich man’s table
 - b. He had sores all over his body
 - c. Only dogs pitied him
3. We hear that Lazarus only experienced compassion/pity from the dogs that licked his wound. When someone is physically sick or suffering physically, mentally, spiritually, what are some ways we can show compassion?
(MULTIPLE ANSWERS)
 - a. Visiting them and sitting with them
 - b. Listening to their pain
 - c. Providing them some nourishment, whether it be food or it be Scripture
4. On a scale of 1 (the rich man) to 10 (Lazarus) where do you stand?
(MULTIPLE CHOICE)

5. Abraham speaks about the “good things” the rich man received in life and the “evil things” Lazarus received in life. (DISCUSSION)
 - a. What are some “good things” we have in life and what do you think our approach should be in handling them or being “stewards” of them?
 - b. The evil things refer to suffering Lazarus endured. What kind of suffering have you witnessed in your life or in others’?
6. Is there a way that this story could have ended differently? What was Jesus trying to teach us in telling this parable? (DISCUSSION)
7. The rich man after he died—and perhaps even before he died—felt an obstacle from reaching God. What obstacles have you felt interfered with you being close to God? (DISCUSSION)