

Sept. 29, 2019 Luke 16: 19-31 & Amos 6: 1a, 4-7

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[Monastery Sunday Homilies](#) 9/25/16

ENTERING THE SCENE:

When things are going our way, we settle into complacency that blinds us to many things. Our rich person in today's scripture rests comfortably in the common sense of his day—that God rewards the good and punishes the bad. He can pass by Lazarus without seeing his need, and might have even thought himself generous even letting him beg by his door.

Jesus, ever the teacher, takes the 'common sense' of his day and invites us to "uncommon sense": the uncommon sense of the Father who repeatedly reminds us that we are all children of the same family. We are to see as the Father sees. By such seeing we can bridge the great chasm that separates us from each other. Jesus has come back from the dead. The question now is: do we see?

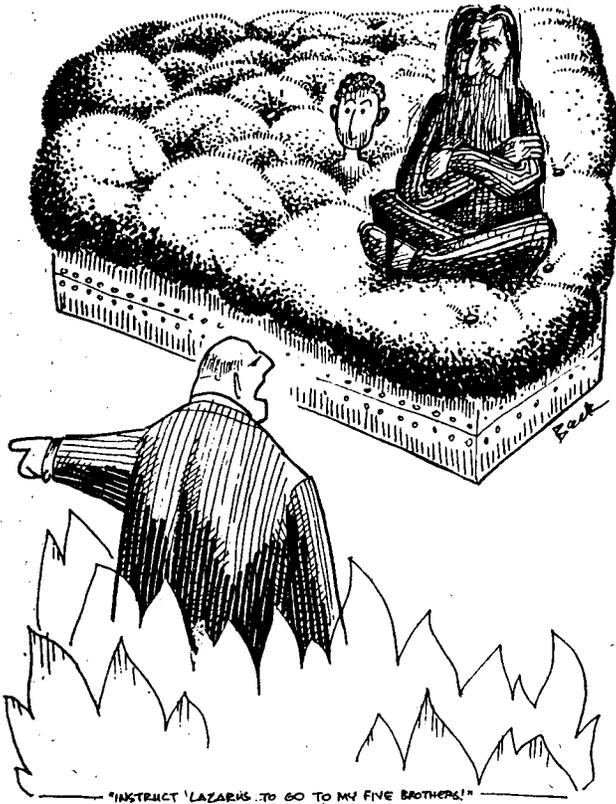
Luke 16:19-31

19 There was a **rich man** who was dressed in **purple and fine linen** and lived in **luxury** every day. 20 At his gate was laid a **beggar** named **Lazarus**, covered with sores 21 and longing to eat what fell from the

rich man's table. Even the **dogs** came and licked his **sores**. 22 The time came when the **beggar died** and the angels carried him to **Abraham's side**. The **rich man** also **died** and was **buried**. 23 In **hell**, where he was in **torment**, he looked up and saw **Abraham** far away, with **Lazarus** by his side. 24 So he called to him, '**Father Abraham**, have **pity** on me and send **Lazarus** to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my **tongue**, because I am in **agony** in this fire.' 25 But **Abraham** replied, '**Son**, remember that in your lifetime you received your **good things**, while **Lazarus** received **bad things**, but now he is **comforted** here and you are in **agony**. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a **great chasm** has been fixed, so that those who want to **go from here to you** cannot, nor can anyone **cross over** from there to us.' 27 He answered, 'Then I beg you, **father**, send **Lazarus** to my **father's house**, 28 for I have **five brothers**. Let him **warn** them, so that they will not also come to this place of **torment**.' 29 **Abraham** replied, 'They have **Moses** and the **Prophets**; let them **listen** to them.' 30 No, **father Abraham**, he said, 'but if someone from the **dead** goes to them, they will **repent**.' 31 He said to him, 'If they do not listen to **Moses** and the **Prophets**, they will not be **convinced** even if **someone rises** from the **dead**.'"

DISCUSSION QUESTION: The rich man only "crossed over" into wisdom when he himself was suffering. How has suffering helped you do the same?

PRAYER: Lord, today you challenge me by revealing that I cannot come to you through someone else's faith. You teach that each person needs to do the hard work of looking deeply into your revealed truth, and stepping outside the comforts of assumptions that deceive me into thinking I know enough to coast to Abraham's side. Help me to see as you see so that others will benefit from this vision. Amen.



"INSTRUCT LAZARUS TO GO TO MY FIVE BROTHERS!"