

First Sunday after Trinity - 6/19/22

Luke 16:19-31

Pastor Loder

Rich Man - very rich man (all that encompasses his wealth)

Lazarus - very poor man (all that encompasses his poverty)

Both die: Rich man to hell
Lazarus to heaven

Three Main Lessons this morning: Faith - Vocation - Stewardship

Question for you to ponder: Why? Why is the rich man in hell? Lazarus heaven?

- Wrong answer: Because the rich man was a rude rich man
Because Lazarus was a humble poor man (Mark 16:16) #4
- Correct answer: Faith - not about many or fewer possessions - God-given faith
 - Rich man's faith - His worldly comfort, identity, and wonders
 - Lazarus' faith - the mercy of God (the only way to heaven)

Gospel Reading: #1 v. 25: Good Things and Comfort (Worldly and Godly)

- The things of this world are not bad/uncomfortable in and of themselves
 - All things are a blessing from God
 - But do you seek them for your own good and comfort?
 - Or do you receive them and use them as the opportunities they are?
- Rich man: worldly comfort, identity, and wonders
 - Worldly comfort: prosperity = God's love (leads to despair)
 - Worldly identity: because of who I am, I am good (family name/Lutheran)
 - Worldly wonders: tangible living/believe it when I see it (v. 27-31) #1
 - All three of these reject the Word of God
 - They create idols
 - We create idols to shield us from our dislikes
 - To shield us from the accountability of sin

God gives us something different

OT Reading: #2 v. 1: shield and reward

- The need for a shield implies imminent danger
 - We live in danger: sin, death, and the devil
 - Wages of sin is death
 - Lazarus' name points us to our shield: "God will help"
- What exactly is that shield? Epistle reading: #3 v. 16-18
 - God's love: casts out fear (Emphasis: HE LOVES US FIRST!!! Obj. Just.)

- Fear is produced by our idols (Emphasis: Idols DON'T love!!!)
 - Once we have, we wish not to lose
- It comes down to faith: from what do you receive yours?

Major Lesson: Faith of the rich man or faith of Lazarus?

- The source of your faith will determine your living of vocation and stewardship
 - Faith through the world = self-serving (Faith that is self-built/made)
 - Faith through the Word = selfless-serving (God-given) (Eph. 2:8-10) #5
 - Compare the rich man and Abram
 - The rich man still defending himself in hell
 - Abram moved from looking to the world to look toward God
 - "And he believed...OT Reading v. 6
- Vocation - Your God-given opportunity to serve with what He's given you
- Stewardship - How you use what God has given - (Time, Talent, Treasure)
 - Worldly fear restricts your stewardship (Proverbs 22) #6
 - Godly fear/awe restricts your greed
 - We don't have a giving problem - we have a heart problem

"Grant us, Your grace to keep Your Commandments..." (Collect)

"O Lord, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned..." (Gradual)

Dear Christian: "The righteous shall live by faith," that is, your lives of faith are the blessing you are given by the regular nourishment of Word and Sacrament.

- With your God-given faith, you seek that which feeds your faith
 - Which enriches your vocations and stewardship
- Word and Sacrament is the meal upon which you feast sumptuously.
 - You are fed the finest meal here from this altar
 - which gives the greatest gifts: faith and forgiveness.
 - And why are you here? Why do you come?
 - Because that's what Baptized children of God do.
 - You turn not from God, but rather from the world.
 - You come into the holy of holies, the safety of the ark - the church
 - donning your baptismal gowns more precious than any fine, purple, linen the world can buy
 - all for the sake of being served by Christ.
 - "My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus' blood and righteousness."
 - It's that blood - that gift - that continues to pour into this very chalice
 - for the sake of filling you, dear child of God, with faith. Amen