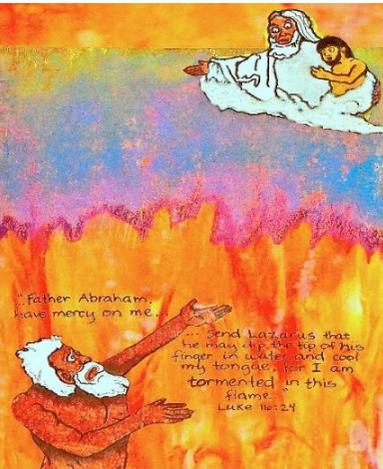


Gospel
The 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Year C (Luke 16:19-31)

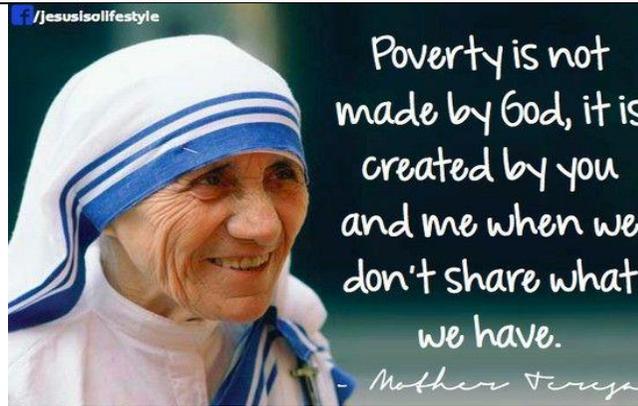


“There was once a rich man who dressed in the most expensive clothes and lived in great luxury every day. There was also a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who used to be brought to the rich man's door, hoping to eat the bits of food that fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs would come and lick his sores.

“The poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the feast in heaven. The rich man died and was buried, and in Hades, where he was in great pain, he looked up and saw Abraham, far away, with Lazarus at his side. So he called out, ‘Father Abraham! Take pity on me, and send Lazarus to dip his finger in some water and cool my tongue, because I am in great pain in this fire!’
 “But Abraham said, ‘Remember, my son, that in your lifetime you were given all the good things, while Lazarus

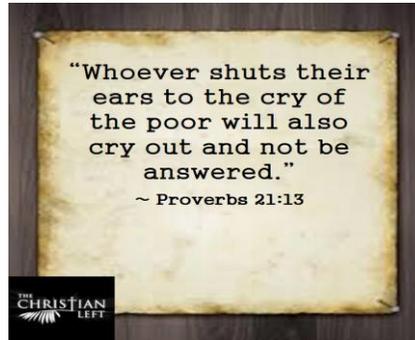


got all the bad things. But now he is enjoying himself here, while you are in pain. Abraham said,
‘If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone were to rise from death.’



Reflection:

This gospel teaches us about the importance of sharing what we have with those in need. In the parable, wealth has made this rich man blind to the desperate needs of another. He is not condemned for being rich but for ignoring the suffering of others. He had seen Lazarus in a pitiful state outside his luxurious home. He even knew Lazarus' name, but he did absolutely nothing to help him. We have to ask ourselves how seriously do we take the call to help others in need. ‘Wealth may mean more than just giving money; spending time with someone, small acts of kindness, being fair to others may be just as precious. ‘The poor’ may be those who simply need a friend or a kind word or smile. Too often we can be totally self-absorbed, overlooking the needs of others or trying to pretend that everything is ok, just like the rich man in the parable. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus challenges us to put others before ourselves and be aware of the injustice in the world, including our own world of those around us at school.



Post-it Challenge:

How often do we say the words ‘It’s not fair’?

God created the world with enough food for everyone. But we are not sharing fairly. Some of us have more food than we can eat, like the rich man. Some of us go to bed hungry, like Lazarus.

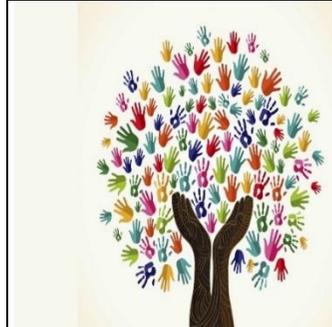
How does hearing this make you feel?

Is it fair?

What else might ‘food’ represent?

God asks us not to ignore each other, but to help one another. Together, we can solve problems but where do we begin?

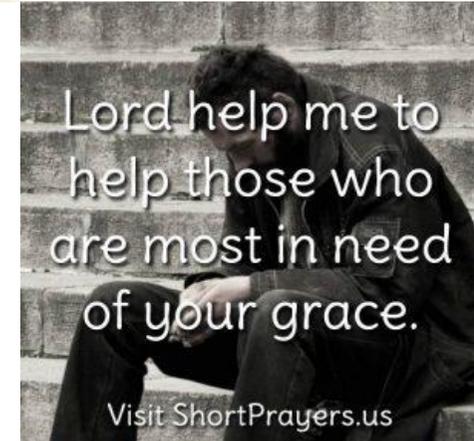
How can you reach out today to offer the hand of friendship to someone who needs your love, your time, your help, your understanding?



Let us pray: We pray, Lord, for the grace we need to be more aware of the needs of others so that we don't ignore their suffering but

instead, reach out with love. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit and find a way to turn their sorrow into joy.

Amen



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