

**The Thursday in the 2nd Week of Lent**  
**February 29, 2024**  
**Luke 16: 19-31**

This passage tells the story of the rich man and the beggar. One lives in luxury with fine clothing and feasts. The other lives at the gate of the rich man, plagued with sores and only scraps to eat. When they both died, one went with Abraham where he found comfort and the other was left in torment. It seems their fates in the afterlife are tied to how they lived their earthly life. The rich man was more concerned with material things rather than loving and helping his fellow man, so he wound up in torment. We can assume the beggar was a follower of Jesus's teachings, and he wound up by Abraham's side. When the rich man asks Abraham to ease his suffering, the response was basically, "Too late. You had your chance." He tells him that what has been done cannot be undone, you cannot go from here to there. When the rich man

asked that his brothers, who are still living, be warned, Abraham responds that they have already been given what they need.

We have also been given what we need. We have the laws of Moses and the words of the prophets. We know about the teachings of Jesus. What will you do with this knowledge? Is wealth your master or is God? Where will you put your trust? How we live in this life will certainly affect how we will live in the next.

My prayer is to be more like the beggar, to do as Jesus taught us and love my neighbor, treat others with respect and to put my focus on Him. We don't get a second chance.

**Libby Fitzpatrick**