

Discussion & Reflection Questions
Brave Unknown - Week 6 - Pentecost 16C - 28th September 2025

Read: Luke 16:19-31

‘There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.” ²⁵ But Abraham said, “Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.” ²⁷ He said, “Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house— ²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.” ²⁹ Abraham replied, “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.” ³⁰ He said, “No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.” ³¹ He said to him, “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.” ’

Discussion Questions

1. How do you think Jesus suggests about the lifestyles of the rich man & Lazarus in verses 19–21? What contrasts stand out most to you?
2. Why do you think the rich man feels entitled to ask for what he asks for?
3. This is a parable but its illustration is the “afterlife” - what do you think happens after we die & does this parable challenge or confirm any of your beliefs?
4. What do you think this parable teaches us about wealth, poverty, & responsibility in God’s kingdom?
5. Why do you think the rich man is not named, while Lazarus is?
6. In what ways might we be “rich” like the man in the story – & how can we cultivate a heart more like God’s toward those in need around us?
7. How does this passage relate to our theme “brave unknown”?

Prayer

O God, from whom light rises in darkness for those who seek you: grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what you would have us do, that

in your light we may see light, and in your narrow path may not stumble;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.