

Bible passage: Luke 16.19-31

Introduction

In our story from Luke's gospel, we hear the parable about a rich man who has no compassion for a poor man named Lazarus. (Read the Luke 16.19-31). This parable is a great and powerful reminder that we cannot take our riches, possessions, power, status or poverty with us. The parable serves to refocus the hearer on what we do with what we have. It's a warning to us, that what we do in this world matters. It's a warning to listen to the Scriptures and to act. What is Jesus saying? I believe one of the things he is telling us is to be generous.

Generosity

Who should we be generous with? We should show generosity to everyone, as we have opportunity. Jesus tells us that we should be generous with those in need. He also said that those who show mercy to the poor, the sick, and the needy are in effect ministering to him personally. So, we should be generous with those in need. Sometimes it's meeting the needs of those right in front of us, like Lazarus, on our doorstep or in our parish. Sometimes it's helping those in need who we have never met and never will.

Why should we be generous? We should be generous because our God is a generous God who gives generously to us. He also calls us to be generous, following in his example. God's generosity is all around us. But ultimately God demonstrated His

generosity when he offered his Son as a sacrifice for our sin. And as we see God being generous, we are to be generous.

What can generosity look like? For some of us giving money is costly for others giving money is easy. Doesn't mean you shouldn't give because it's too easy or too hard but like the widow she gave what she could. It cost her. We can show generosity by giving people our time, our material resources, our hospitality, and our friendship. We are called to trust. To trust that when we are generous, even though it is costly, God is with us and what we do on this earth matters. So, let's be generous to all because our God is generous to us and let's act now.

Some questions for discussion

1. Read Luke 16.19-31. What are our thoughts on this parable?
2. What does the phrase generosity make us feel or think of?
3. If the parable is a warning to us to be generous, what are we doing about being generous?
4. What can generosity look like in a time of unknown and in a financial crisis?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-8. Do we find being a cheerful giver easy or not?
6. Can we think of a time when we have seen God's generosity in our lives or in the lives of others? Did we need to trust?