



**September 29 2019 // Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time // Lectionary: 138 // Gospel LK 16:19-31**

Jesus said to the Pharisees: "There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even used to come and lick his sores. When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.' Abraham replied, 'My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.' He said, 'Then I beg you, father, send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they too come to this place of torment.' But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.' He said, 'Oh no, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'"

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#### **Spiritual Reflection:**

Today's Gospel reminds us that John Milton's quote from Paradise Lost "Better to reign in hell than serve in heaven," was wrong.

#### **Spiritual Questions**

1. We see the rich man stuck in his old bad behaviors in the next life. What behaviors do you have that will make the next life hell?
2. Who would be the Lazarus in your life (someone you ignore)?
3. How can you help the poor in your life?
4. What is heaven to you? What is hell for you?
5. What does the Church say Hell is like? (try to get past fire and brimstone imagery).