

great pain in this terrible fire! Please send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in cool water and touch my tongue!

“But Abraham said, ‘Remember that while you were alive, you had all the good things, while Lazarus had nothing but trouble. Now he is happy, while you are in pain. Besides, heaven and hell are so far apart that no one in heaven can go to you, and no one in hell can come here.’

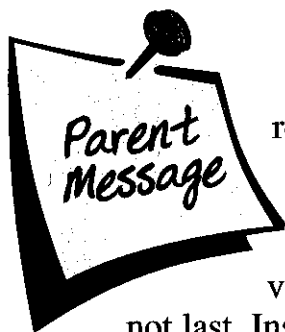
“The rich man answered, ‘Then please send Lazarus to my five brothers. He can

warn them so that they will not have to come to this place!’

“Abraham told the rich man, ‘Your brothers have the Word of God. Let them listen to what it says.’

“‘No, they won’t do that,’ cried the rich man. ‘But if someone were to come back from the dead and talk to them, they would be sorry for their sins and believe!’

“Abraham said, ‘If your brothers won’t listen to God’s Word, they will not believe even if someone would rise from the dead.’”



In this parable, Jesus is reminding us of the dangers of becoming wrapped up in our earthly treasures. Those who do so are jeopardizing their very souls for things that will not last. Instead, may we use the riches we have been given to serve God and others.

Ask your child to help you think of ways your family can share earthly treasures with others. You might want to use one of the ideas listed here to get you started.

- Make a “Missionary Bank” where members of the family can drop in their coins. Send the money to one of our synod’s missions.
- Have family members sort through their clothing and donate items to a local charity.
- Harvest some of your garden produce and share it with someone who can’t have a garden.
- Prepare a meal together and deliver it to someone who would appreciate it.

Prayer

Dear Lord, help us not to put our trust in earthly riches that do not last. Instead, teach us to always love and trust in you. May we use our riches to serve you and others. Amen.



** Matthew 4:10

Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.

* The Seventh Commandment

You shall not steal.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not take our neighbor’s money or property, or get it by dishonest dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and means of income.

* Hymn 469:1

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.