



Sept. 24, 2025

Commentary on Luke 16:19-31
Lois Malcolm

As much as we would like to spiritualize the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus, it is very difficult to explain away its central message, especially given what Luke has to say about money and possessions elsewhere in his Gospel.

The fates of these two individuals after death are very much tied to their experiences of wealth and poverty in this life.

The rich man has no name, although he's been given various names in later history such as *Dives*, which means "rich" in Latin. By contrast, Lazarus is the only name given to anyone in Jesus' parables; it means *El-azar*, "God has helped." (There appears to be no connection between this Lazarus and the resuscitated man in John 11:1-44.)

The story begins with a drastic reversal that happens after these two men die (16:19-23). In his lifetime, the rich man ostentatiously displayed his wealth with beautiful clothes and lavish feasts. Conversely, Lazarus was covered with sores, was hungry, and had only dogs to lick his sores. After his death, Lazarus is carried away to an honored place beside Abraham, God's friend and the father of Israel (3:8; 13:28-29). By contrast, the rich man finds himself in Hades, a place of torment and eternal punishment (10:15).

A conversation ensues between the rich man and Abraham (16:24-26). The rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to ease his pain in Hades, but Abraham responds that this cannot be done. Their fortunes have shifted. In their lifetimes, Lazarus suffered bad things, and he experienced good things, but now Lazarus is comforted, and he is in agony. A "great chasm" now exists between the two, which cannot be crossed.

The rich man then begs Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his five brothers about Hades (16:27-41). Abraham replies that they already have Moses and the prophets to warn them. This response is congruent with Luke's emphasis on the continuity between Jesus' teaching and that of Moses and the prophets (see 24:26-28; 44-48; see also 16:16-17). When Lazarus maintains that his brothers will change their ways if someone comes to them from the dead, Abraham replies if they have not listened to Moses and the prophets, they definitely will not be convinced by someone being raised from the dead, an allusion perhaps to Jesus' resurrection (9:22; Acts 1:22).

The story centers on the reversal of fortunes that takes place after Lazarus and the rich man die. It links agony or comfort after death with how we treat the less fortunate around us, much like Matthew links eternal life and punishment with how we treat the hungry and thirsty, strangers, the naked, the sick, and those in prison (25:31-46). This reversal after death is ultimate. An unbridgeable chasm exists between Lazarus at Abraham's side and the rich man in Hades.

Luke, in particular, stresses the way the status of the rich and the poor is reversed in the kingdom of God. When Jesus is conceived in Mary's womb, she exults that the hungry have been filled and the rich sent away empty (1:46-55; cf. 1 Samuel 2:1-10). In the Sermon on the Plain, Jesus tells the poor that God favors them and that the kingdom of God belongs to them, but he warns the rich of what is to come since they have already received their consolation in this life (6:20-25).

Luke makes clear that the poor are a focus of Jesus' ministry. In his inaugural sermon, Jesus declares that he has been anointed by the Spirit of the Lord "to bring good news to the poor" (4:18; see also 7:22). Jesus admonishes his followers not just to invite to their parties the friends and neighbors who can repay them, but to extend their invitations to "the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind" (14:13). This is echoed when Jesus describes the kingdom of God as a wedding banquet where the invitation has been extended to "the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind" (14:21).

Yet if the poor have good news preached to them, then the rich receive a somewhat different message. The rich young ruler who asks Jesus how he can inherit eternal life is told that he is to sell all he has and distribute the money to the poor. When this makes him sad (because of his wealth) Jesus comments that the rich tend to have more difficulty entering the kingdom of God (18:18-30). Like the rich fool, the wealthy store their treasure in ever larger barns they cannot take with them after they die (12:8-21). They may store up "treasures for themselves," but they are not "rich toward God" (12:21).

But being "rich toward God" — and having "treasure in heaven"— is not just about piety. It is also about selling possessions and distributing wealth to the poor (12:33; 18:22). After he encounters Jesus, Zaccheus gives half of his possessions to the poor and repays anyone he has defrauded four times as much (19:1-10). As the church emerges in Acts, new converts would "sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need" (2:45; 4:32-34).

The story of the rich man and Lazarus might be difficult for many North Americans, whose lifestyle stands in sharp contrast with a majority of people in the world who live on much less. Like so much else that Luke says about money and possessions, it stands as a stinging indictment not only of the great confidence we place in financial security, but also of the drastic inequities between rich and poor we allow to perpetuate.

In this story, God's eternal judgment has everything to do with how we use wealth in this life and whether we attend to those less fortunate in our midst. Our temptation is to explain away a story like this and to remove its blatant depiction of how God will ultimately vindicate the cause of the poor. But the message has been clearly stated. Like the rich man's five brothers, we have been given all the warning we need.



Worship Calendar

Sept. 28	The Rich the Poor and the Gulf Between Heaven and Hell	Luke 16:19-31	Rev. Eric Lee
Oct. 5	When the World Doesn't Make Sense	Habakkuk 1:1-6, 12-13. 2:1-4; 3:17-19	Rev. Eric Lee



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder

The sacrament of Holy Communion will be served on Sunday, Oct. 5. The elements will be served by intinction. All are welcome to the Lord's Table.

Bible Study.

Our fall bible study will begin on Tuesday September 30 at 12:15. We will be watching and discussing season 5 of The Chosen. This has been a most popular series which brings our bible to life. Here is a link to view the trailer for season 5. <https://youtu.be/5CVj41dtklA?si=2xyvie0E70jYnOg2>

Couch Needed

If anyone has a couch they have been thinking about donating, please contact Nancy McPherson.

Help Wanted

Graceview needs someone to undertake leading a small team of people to decorate the church for special times in our liturgical year. (Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day, Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter etc.). Lynne Bishop will assist in letting you know where everything is kept and what has been done in the past. Please let either Kathy Twynam or Susan Chopp know if you are interested.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Outreach is organizing a food/cash drive for the St James Food Basket to provide them with selected food products for their client families. The following items have been suggested: tuna, canned tomatoes and tomato paste, pasta (500 mg), canned beans – chickpeas, lentils, kidney beans, baked beans (NO PORK added), dried beans – lentils, chickpeas, etc. (smaller bags), canned soup – vegetable, mushroom, tomato (NO MEAT, INCLUDING CHICKEN), and canned vegetables. We will put a wheelbarrow at the front of the church beginning on Sept 28th to hold your items. If you prefer, you can make a cash donation (cash, cheque or e-transfer) which will be used to buy these items in bulk by the Food Basket. Please mark your donation for the Outreach account and include your envelope number. Let's aim to fill the wheelbarrow to overflowing by Sunday, October 19th and share our blessings with those who are struggling to make ends meet.

Changing your PARS Donations

PARS program. - If you are on the PARS program for your church giving and you wish to update your monthly donation, this can be easily done by contacting Jackie Taylor either in person or by email at jacquelinet@sympatico.ca

Potluck Sign Up

Music & Worship is organizing a pot luck lunch after worship on Sunday, October 5. The sign-up sheet for this welcome back event is on the bulletin board in the entryway to the church. What a lovely way to spend time with friends and to be thankful for all that we have.

Egg Cartons

A message from St. James Food Basket: Thank you for so diligently collecting egg cartons. We have once again reached storage capacity. We will let you know when we need more egg cartons.

Saint James Food Basket - Bundle Buggies:

If anyone has a bundle buggy they no longer need and would like to donate it to the Food Basket, please leave it in the cloakroom by the Food Bank bin. There are several clients in need of a functioning cart.

A Fall Devotional Update (September 23):

A **new** edition of **These Days** (October/November/December), as well as the current edition of **Our Daily Bread** (September/October/November) are available on the table in the church vestibule and in the devotional box on the church porch.

Coffee Sign-Up

It is that time of year again when we are looking for volunteers to serve coffee and tea during after worship fellowship time. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Adamson Lounge for now.

Sept. 28 – Robyn & Margaret
Oct. 5. - Pot Luck Lunch
Oct. 12 –
Oct. 19 –
Oct. 26 -
Nov. 2. - Loreen & Margaret
Nov. 9 – 30 - Outreach



Thank you to all of you who have given so willingly of your time and efforts. We appreciate you!!

Communion Worship Service

Rev. Eric is planning to have a short Baptism and Membership ceremony added to our Communion worship service.

Music Announcement

After Coffee Time this Sunday, there will be a Dress Rehearsal in The Chancel of The Chancel Choir and The Bell Choir. A picture of the combined choirs, with Glen, will be taken for the Internet. Thanks Glen.



PRAYER REQUESTS AND PASTORAL CARE

* Pray for the people of war-torn countries who are living in fear and uncertainty. Pray for those close to home who need your special love and guidance during trying times.

* **Ed Lattimore** moved into a Seniors Residence on Sept 1st. His new address is: Oakville Senior Citizens Residence, 2222 Lakeshore Blvd West, Oakville, Ontario L6L 5G5. His room number is 814 and his phone number is 905-582-2286 (there is no call display or voice mail - best time to call is in the morning after 9 am). He still has a lot of pain in his legs, back and side so please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

* Also, please keep these people in your prayers:

Paul Mbogo and family, Joan and Peter Kohar, Ethel Waite, Eftekhar (grandmother of Ali), Lynne Bishop, Joan Pateman, Debbie Homebrooke and family, Margaret Munene's brother Simon, Lenore Carty, Shelia Thomas' grandson, Carter, the Jarvis family, Olive S., and Jean Fox's nephew, Ryan.

Please keep these folks, and indeed, everyone in our church family and people around the world, in your prayers.

Note from your editor...could you please advise me from time to time on the status of your loved ones so that updates can be recorded and shared to prove that the power of prayer does work miracles.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- * Tuesdays @ 11:00 AM – Walking Group – All are welcome
- * Thursdays @ 2:00 PM – Worship service at Centennial Park Place
- * Tuesday, Sept. 30 @ 12:15 PM – Bible Study – The Chosen season 5 begins (8 sessions)
- * Sunday, Oct. 5 @ 10:30 – Holy Communion (intinction)
- * Sunday, Oct. 5 @ 11:30 – Welcome Back/Thanksgiving Pot Luck Luncheon
- * Monday, Oct. 6 @ 7:00 PM – Outreach Meeting
- * Tuesday, Oct. 14 @ 11:00 AM – Elaine's Craft Club
- * Thursday, Oct. 16 @ 9:30 – Sing! Etobicoke @ NPCC
- * Sunday, Nov. 2 @ 10:30 AM – Remembering Tree Sunday
- * Sunday, Nov. 9 @ 10:30 AM – Remembrance Day Service
- * Friday, Nov. 14 @ 1:30 PM – Music & Worship meeting

	<u>Prayer Roster</u>	<u>Lay Readers</u>	<u>Welcome and Announcements</u>
Sept. 28	Maureen Screen	Chris Parr	Bob Twynam
Oct. 5	Errol Baldeo	Susan Chopp	Kathy Twynam
Oct. 12	Eric Lee	Bob Twynam	Iris Lee
Oct. 19	Susan Chopp	Jean Fox	Bob Twynam
Oct. 26	Nancy McPherson	Maureen Screen	Iris Lee
Nov. 2	Kathy Twynam	Margaret Munene	Bob Twynam
Nov. 9	Eric Lee	Georgena Engineer	Kathy Twynam
Nov. 16	Chris Parr	Errol Baldeo	Nancy McPherson
Nov. 23	Margaret Munene	Kathy Twynam	Susan Chopp
Nov. 30	Eric Lee	Nancy McPherson	Iris Lee
Dec. 7	Bob Twynam	Al Bishop	Susan Chopp
Dec. 14	Rachael Chen	Bob Twynam	Kathy Twynam
Dec. 21	Eric Lee	Nancy Green	Nancy McPherson
Dec. 28	Nancy Green	Anna Cherniak	Susan Chopp



Sing! Etobicoke

Please be advised that Sing! Etobicoke sessions have been moved from Mondays to Thursdays. The time remains the same. Singing commences at 9:30 AM

To register, please visit: <https://www.neilsonparkcreativecentre.com/event/sing-etobicoke/>

For information, please email: alex@neilsonparkcreativecentre.com or call 416-622-5294.

Sing! Etobicoke, Encore, 2025 Fall Schedule

2025-10-16	9:30 AM	NPCC	Autumn Leaves (Songs of Fall)	F25ASE1
2025-10-23	9:30 AM	GV	Stand By Me	F25ASE2
2025-10-30	9:30 AM	GV	What Do You Fear?	F25ASE3
2025-11-06	9:30 AM	NPCC	I'll Be Seeing You	F25ASE4
2025-11-13	9:30 AM	GV	Sunrise Sunset	F25ASE5
2025-11-20	9:30 AM	GV	On the Road Again	F25ASE6
2025-11-27	9:30 AM	NPCC	Singin' in the Rain	F25ASE7
2025-12-04	9:30 AM	NPCC	Advent and More	F25ASE8
2025-12-11	9:30 AM	NPCC	Holiday Songs	F25ASE9
2025-12-18	9:30 AM	GV	Holiday Songs (With men Aloud)	F25ASE10

Sing! Etobicoke, Encore, 2026 Winter Schedule

2026-01-08	9:30 AM	NPCC	Aspenglow, Songs of Winter	W26ASE1
2026-01-15	9:30 AM	NPCC	Songs of the North	W26ASE2
2026-01-22	9:30 AM	GV	A Day in the Life	W26ASE3
2026-01-29	9:30 AM	GV	Be My Light	W26ASE4
2026-02-05	9:30 AM	NPCC	Guest Day (with Men Aloud)	W26ASE5
2026-02-12	9:30 AM	GV	Love Me Tender	W26ASE6
2026-02-19	9:30 AM	GV	Singin' in the Rain	W26ASE7
2026-02-26	9:30 AM	GV	Catch a Falling Star	W26ASE8
2026-03-05	9:30 AM	NPCC	Do I ever Cross Your Mind?	W26ASE9
2026-03-12	9:30 AM	NPCC	Here Comes the Sun (Songs of Spring)	W26ASE10



Pursuing Peace



Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. – Romans 14:19 (NIV)

God whispers a call for you to be a beacon of peace, to weave actions and nurture feelings that sow seeds of harmony and elevate those around you. This journey may not always be easy, but it's one that reflects the gentle heart of Christ. When discord or arguments cloud the horizon, strive to respond with grace and understanding. Your devotion to peace can light a similar flame in others, shaping a space of unity and mutual respect.

Heavenly Guide, steer my steps as I strive to spread the wings of peace and lift others up.

WEEKLY GIGGLE

Things you'll never hear in church:

- Hey! It's MY turn to sit on the front pew!
- I was so enthralled, I never noticed your sermon went over time 25 minutes.
 - Personally, I find witnessing much more enjoyable than golf.
- I've decided to give our church the \$500.00 a month I used to send to TV evangelists.
- I volunteer to be the permanent teacher for the Junior High Sunday School class.
- Forget the denominational minimum salary: let's pay our pastor so s/he can live like we do.
 - I love it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!
 - Since we're all here, let's start the worship service early!
 - Pastor, this winter we'd like to send you to this Bible seminar in the Bahamas.
- Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual stewardship campaign!



Where to Find Us

Contact Person	Email Address	Phone Number	Role/Note
Susan	choppertini@hotmail.com	416-953-7582	Share news or prayer requests for Weekly Email
Pastor Eric	pastor@graceview.ca	416-621-0888 (press #1)	Church-related communication
Church Office (Halyna)	office@graceview.ca		Managed by Secretary Halyna
Music Director (Glen)	delineglen@gmail.com	905-849-0388	Director of Music
Graceview Website			https://graceview.ca/calendar-events
Facebook Page			Graceview Presbyterian Church

Instagram Page

<https://www.instagram.com/graceview.presbyterian?igsh=MnlpeXE5TYyN2ly>

September Calendar





September

2025



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

	1	2 Walking Group 11:00	3	4	5	6
7 Total Takeover Rev. Eric Lee	8	9 Walking Group 11:00 West Presbytery 6:30	10	11	12	13
14 Rev. Wan. Hwang	15	16 Walking Group 11:00	17	18	19	20
21 Rev. Jan Hieminga Bell Ringers 11:30	22	23 *Walking Group 11:00 *Session 6:30	24	25	26	27
28 The Rich, the Poor and the Gulf Between Heaven and Hell- Rev. Eric Lee	29	30 * Walking Group 11:00 *Bible Study 12:15				