

09-25-22 FOR THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK

“This parable challenges us not simply to share wealth but to become attentive to the poor and suffering persons who are before us...We live within political and economic systems that feed upon the sufferings of others, all the while keeping those sufferings invisible. The call of Christ is to refuse to live any longer by those convenient fabrications.”

-Scott Bader-Saye



Psalm 91:1-6, 14-1 † Luke 16:19-31

Questions for Reflection —

- What are some of the “walls” that shut you off from other people? In what ways do those walls also separate you from God? Who or what has created those walls? What is needed to break down the walls? What do you need in order to be more open-hearted, to let God’s love flow in and through you? What spiritual practices will help you see the world and its people through God’s eyes?

- Who are the people you encounter in your everyday life who might be silently suffering in some way? What opportunities are daily right in front of you to embody God’s love and care for people in need? What would it look like for you to demonstrate compassion and genuine concern for them? What will help us as a congregation to be more aware of and better understand the needs of our neighbors? Whom would you identify as the “Lazaruses” right outside the doors of our church? What are the “riches” we might share with them? How could we do so?

- In what ways have you been blessed with privilege in some form (e.g. money, talent, education)? Across what chasms do you need to reach in order to establish meaningful connection with people who do not share your same level of privilege? What are the inequalities embedded in our society? What people are dispossessed and overlooked by our political and economic systems? What can we as a congregation do to counteract the systems that perpetuate suffering, inequality, and injustice?

Daily Household Prayer

God of all people, we build up walls to protect ourselves from pain. These walls can also shut us off from other people and prevent us from receiving your love. God, break down those walls. Help us to see that the way to your heart is through openness and sharing with all whom you love. God, break through our isolation. Let us see with your eyes. Lead us to act with care and concern for others and faithfulness to you, through Jesus Christ. Amen.