

WEEKDAY WORSHIP

September 22-29, 2019

Worship as encounter with the living God cannot be limited to one hour per week. "Weekday Worship" invites you to extend your worship beyond the sanctuary, to hear the story of the Bible as your story, lived out each day of each week. Feedback is appreciated and should be directed to Rita Boyer.

BIBLE READING

This week's reading is: Luke 16:19–31 (<http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=434698151>) .

Other readings are: Jeremiah 32:1–3a, 6–15; Psalm 91:1–6, 14–16; 1 Timothy 6:6–19.

The theme is: Keeping Focus.

Wealth and success are blessings from God, bestowed on those with whom God is pleased. The poor have no one but themselves to blame. Sound familiar? This misguided theology was accepted in Jesus' day and is not unfamiliar to us today. But Jesus tells a story that condemns such theology. It is the parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. The rich man feels no connection to or responsibility for Lazarus, who is poor. And why should he? His wealth is seen as evidence of his righteousness, and Lazarus' poverty is clearly a sign of God's displeasure. Each has what he deserves. But reversals and judgments against the wealthy are common in the Gospel of Luke, and this is no exception. The rich man ends up in Hades where he finds that the tables have been turned. He is now suffering, while Lazarus (whose name means "God helps") enjoys the company of Abraham. Now it is the rich man who is begging! Jesus uses a story to share the truth that God is on the side of the poor. God does help those whom the wealthy ignore, but the story also raises the question, "Will we help?" We, who have heard the calls of Moses and the prophets and the Risen Christ, will we help?

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

"Questions to Consider" enable you to connect your story to the biblical story. Rather than easy questions to be answered at first glance, these questions or reflections can be returned to and meditated upon throughout the week.

With whom do you identify in this story?

What do you hear as good news in this story?

What challenges you about this story?

Continue to reflect upon the worship theme of September 22:

People say, "Prayer changes things." Perhaps, more importantly, prayer changes us. How does praying for "everyone" change you?

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