

Family Page

Rich Man, Poor Man

(A play for the whole family)

CAST: Narrator; Lazarus; rich man; rich man's friend or friends; Abraham.

SCENE I: The gate outside the rich man's home. Lazarus is sitting, shivering from the cold.

Narrator: Once there was a rich man who dressed in fine clothes and feasted splendidly every day.

(The rich man comes through the gate, talking with his friends, chomping on a chicken leg, tossing bones to the dogs.)

Narrator: At this gate lay a beggar named Lazarus who longed to get the scraps that fell from the rich man's table.

Lazarus *(thinking out loud)*: Oh, if only he would throw me a bone. I am so hungry.

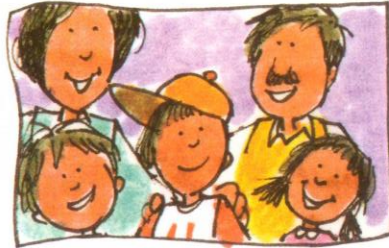
Rich man *(bragging)*: Friends, I am a wealthy man. I have a fine house, good food, and lots of money. Just see this lovely coat, the finest in the village.

Lazarus *(still thinking out loud)*: I am so cold. I wish I had an old coat to keep me warm.

Rich man's friend: God has been very good to you.

Rich man: Well, after all, I deserve it. I obey all the commandments and work hard.

Lazarus *(praying)*: Lord, you take such good care of me. I love you very much. *(The rich man and his friends walk away, Lazarus sinks slowly to the ground.)*



SCENE II: Heaven. Lazarus is sitting in Abraham's lap. Off to the side, the rich man dances up and down from the heat of the flames.

Narrator: Eventually the beggar died. He was carried by the angels to heaven, where the holy man, Abraham, comforted him. The rich man also died and went to a place of flames. He raised his eyes and saw Abraham and Lazarus.

Rich man: Abraham, send Lazarus to give me just a sip of water.

Abraham: Sir, when you were rich and Lazarus was in misery, you never helped him. Now he has found comfort and you have found torment.

Rich man: Then send him to my father's house to warn my brothers so they will change their ways.

Abraham: People have told them how to be good many times. They never listen.

Rich man: They would listen if someone came back from the dead.

Abraham *(scoffing)*: If they do not listen to the holy people, they won't ever change.

(The rich man hangs his head in shame.)

Narrator: Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." We should always be on the lookout for those who need our help.



explaining GOD'S WORD

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) • Luke 16:19-31 • September 25, 2022

Rich Man, Poor Man



Using this key, color this picture of LAZARUS
1 = Red 2 = Blue 3 = Brown
4 = Green 5 = Yellow 6 = Gray

Lazarus and the Rich Man

Once there was a rich man. He had all a man could want: lovely clothes, good food, a beautiful house, and servants to wait on him.

At the rich man's gate sat Lazarus, a very poor man, begging for something to eat. Lazarus had no fancy clothes, no beautiful home, no servants to bring his meals.

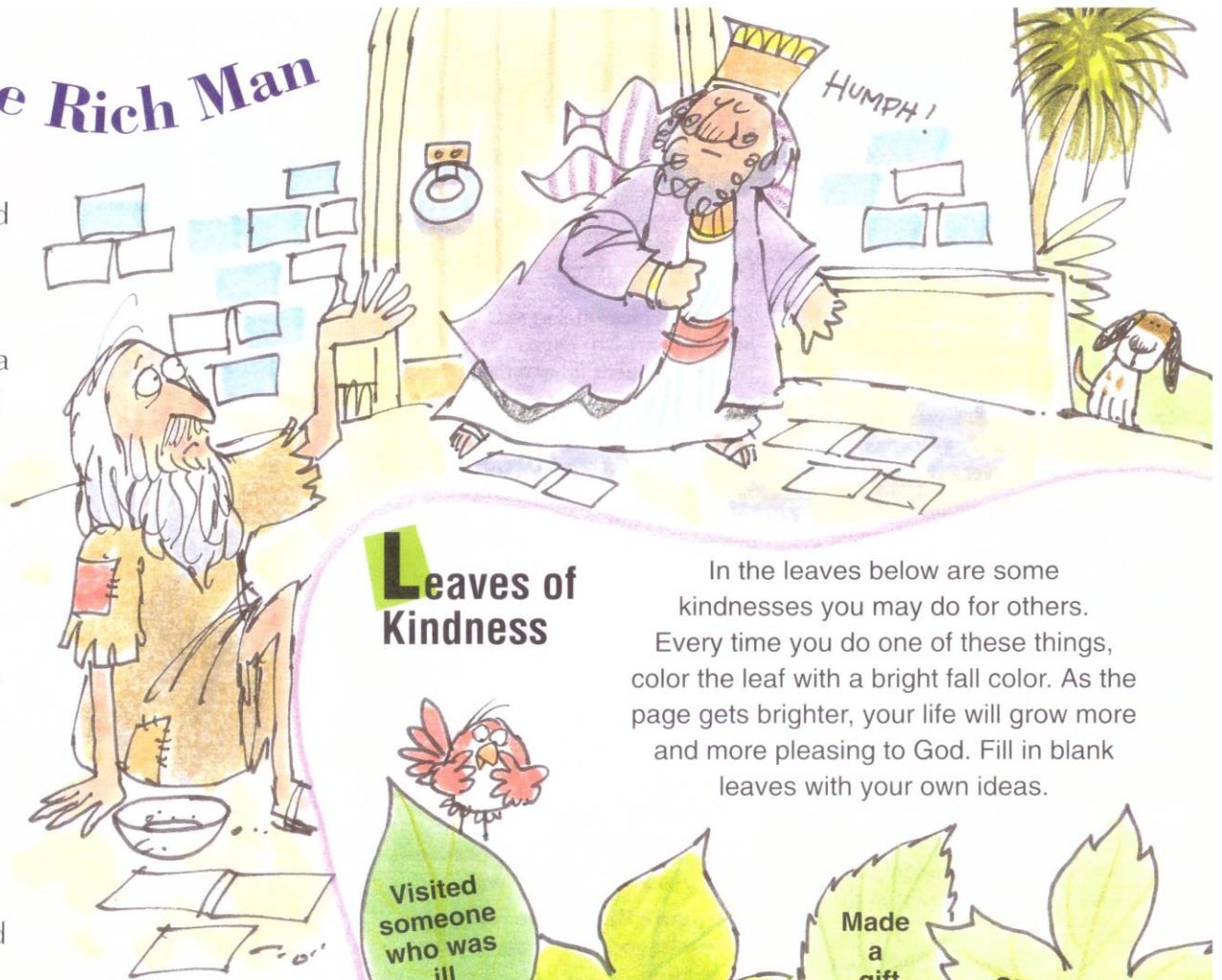
Every day the rich man came through his great stone gate and walked right by Lazarus. He didn't offer him food or a cloak to keep him warm. The rich man just walked by as if Lazarus wasn't there.

Soon both men died. Lazarus went right to heaven and was comforted by Abraham, a holy man who lived with God.

The rich man went to another place, where flames burned all around and made him hot and thirsty.

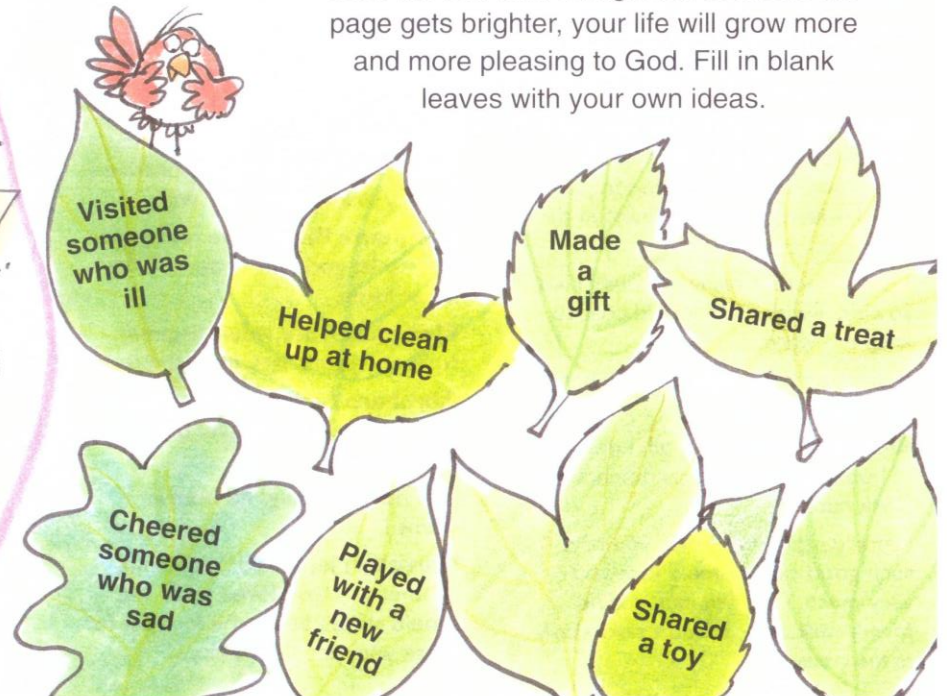
The rich man begged Lazarus for help, but Abraham reminded him how he had treated Lazarus when they were on earth.

Always watch for those in need and be ever ready to help. For the kindnesses you do for others, you do for Jesus too. And the comforting arms of heaven will welcome you with love.



Leaves of Kindness

In the leaves below are some kindnesses you may do for others. Every time you do one of these things, color the leaf with a bright fall color. As the page gets brighter, your life will grow more and more pleasing to God. Fill in blank leaves with your own ideas.



Written by Francine M. O'Connor.
Art by Chris Sharp. © 2022 Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO 63057-9999. Imprimatur: Most Rev. Robert J. Hermann, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus, Archdiocese of St. Louis. Printed in USA. All rights reserved. It is a violation of copyright law to reproduce all or part of this material without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Liguori.org