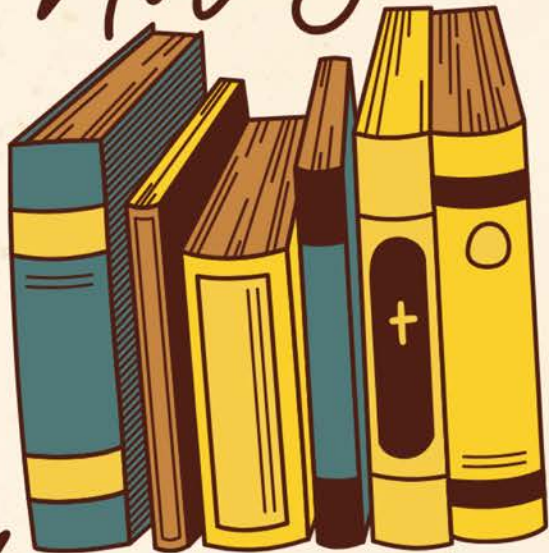


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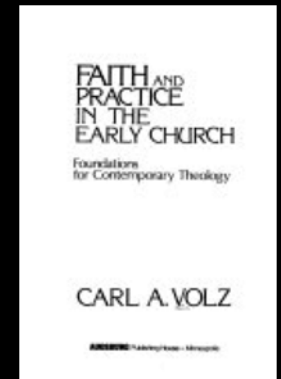


Another Story

What is a Worship Service?

“The most significant change was in the centrality given to Christ as Lord and God, and the recognition given to Christ’s saving work. Worship was understood sacrificially and sacramentally. Christians came together to respond to Christ’s work of salvation in gratitude and adoration. The Greek word liturgy literally means, “a public work of service.” By singing hymns, offering praise, and giving alms the church responded to the gift of salvation.

But worship also included the sacramental dimension, in that something was given to the participant-instruction, reading from the Bible, forgiveness of sins, and Christ's body and blood in the Eucharist."



~ Carl A. Volz, Faith and Practice in the Early Church, p. 97

Worship is Beholding Glory

18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.

(2 Corinthians 3:18)

Call to Worship

To all who are weary and need rest,
To all who mourn and long for comfort,
To all who feel worthless and wonder if God cares,
To all who fail and desire strength,
To all who sin and need a Savior,

This church opens wide her doors with a welcome from Jesus Christ,
the Ally of his enemies,
the Defender of the guilty,
the Justifier of the inexcusable,
the Friend of sinners.

Welcome!

Scripture Reading + Opening Prayer

Our Passage: Luke 16:19-31

19 “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. 20 At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores 21 and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

The Rich Man and Lazarus

22 “The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. 24 So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

The Rich Man and Lazarus

25 “But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

The Rich Man and Lazarus

27 “He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, 28 for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

29 “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

The Rich Man and Lazarus

30 “‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

31 “He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Message



The
Story of



The Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:14-15

14 The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed him. 15 And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

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A Brief Word on Hell

- We gain our doctrine from the *whole counsel* of Scripture
 - Jesus taught more about the reality of hell than any prophet or apostle
- Hell is the result of God's justice – namely his goodness and wrath against sin and evil; God is just to send sinners to hell
 - Our choices and actions have eternal consequences
- Hell is a place of eternal, conscious torment for all those who reject Jesus and die in their sins

“If Jesus is the Bread of Life, loss of Jesus means starving. If Jesus is the Light of the World, loss of Jesus means darkness. If Jesus is the Good Shepherd, loss of Jesus means wandering alone and lost. If Jesus is the resurrection and the life, loss of Jesus is eternal death. And if Jesus is the Lamb of God, sacrificed for our sins, loss of Jesus means paying that price for ourselves.”

~Rebecca McLaughlin, *Confronting Christianity*

“The damned are, in one sense, successful, rebels to the end; the doors of hell are locked on the inside. . . . They enjoy forever the horrible freedom they have demanded, and are therefore self-enslaved.”



~C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*

“There are two significant reasons for our hesitation regarding – and, at times, our revulsion to – the doctrine of hell. The first is that we don’t understand who God is. We have little to no understanding of the depth and the breadth and the height of His perfection and of His holiness. The second is that we don’t understand the sinfulness of sin.

“We are quick to say to err is human and to forgive is divine; we are equally swift to affirm that no one’s perfect. The awfulness of sin hasn’t really captured our understanding. What repentance we have before God is shallow at best, as we sugarcoat the offenses we have committed, not only against our neighbors but especially and ultimately against God Himself.”

The Rich Man and Lazarus

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29 “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

The Rich Man and Lazarus

30 “‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

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John 11:45-48, 53

45 Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, 46 but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. 47 So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, “What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. 48 If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation.”

—

53 So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

How is this *not* just another story?

Contrasts

The Rich Man

- Dressed in purple, fine linen
- Lived luxuriously every day
- Guilty of breaking 2nd commandment (lev. 19:18) which is really against God
 - Dies
- Doesn't believe God's Word (Moses & the Prophets)
 - No hint of repentance

Lazarus

- Laid at the gate of the rich man
 - Covered with sores
- Longing to eat from the table
 - Licked by dogs (unclean)
- Given a name, "The One whom God helps"
 - Dies
- Goes from being far off to brought near

What did the rich man get wrong?

“A surface reading of this parable might indicate that the rich man missed salvation because he was not generous enough with his money. But that is not the case. The true reason for his damnation was his disregard for God’s Word and his rejection of the Lord. He did not believe the Scriptures. And he certainly did not think his disregard would land him in Hell. To think that someone like him, living in such abundance, can miss Heaven! And yet, without Christ, such is the case.”

~R. Kent Hughes, *Luke: That You May Know the Truth*, p. 447

Abraham's Indictment

29 “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’



You Missed God's Compassion!

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Matthew 9:10-13

10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

12 On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Definition of Compassion

splanchnizomai. vb. to have compassion, pity, deep empathy. Expresses having deep compassion. This verb is similar to what is expressed in modern language as a feeling in one's "gut" or "heart" of deep empathy for another person

~John Frederick, "Mercy and Compassion," ed. Douglas Mangum et al.,
Lexham Theological Wordbook, Lexham Bible Reference Series (Bellingham, WA:
Lexham Press, 2014).

Christian Compassion

1. Christian compassion listens to the voices of the marginalized and the poor
2. Christian compassion meets tangible needs
3. Christian compassion is compassion for the undeserving, not just our friends or “tribes”
4. Christian compassion is done for the other person not in order to receive a reward

Christian Compassion

1. Christian compassion is done from a place of humility and knowing that we are also sinners
2. Christian compassion drops the posture of condemnation and instead seeks understanding and reconciliation
3. Christian compassion does not mean permission to sin
4. Christian compassion flows out of our own receiving of mercy when we stood guilty, condemned, and sinfully sick and Jesus saved us, forgave us, and healed us – we want others to get in on this



We don't live that way, but Jesus did

2nd Corinthians 8:9

9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Philippians 2:5-8

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Isaiah 53: 2-5

For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Isaiah 53: 2-5

4 Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

Mark 15:16-20

16 And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. 17 And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. 18 And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 19 And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. 20 And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.



Silent Reflection

Silent Reflection

1. What does my practice of compassion reveal about my understanding of God's grace?
2. In what ways does seeing Jesus as our compassionate savior impact you?
3. What is God's Spirit calling you to repent of today?
4. Confess, repent, and ask God to help you show compassion to others this week.

Corporate Confession

Merciful Father, we confess that with us there is an abundance of sin and a lack of compassion, but in you there is the fullness of righteousness and abundance of mercy. We are spiritually poor, but you are rich and in Jesus Christ came to be merciful to the poor. Forgive us of our debts, and renew us. Remind us of our righteousness in Christ and help us to live like you. Strengthen our weak faith. Warm our cold hearts and make them to resemble yours, that our love may go out to one another and to our neighbors. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Heavenly Father, in Christ you have forgiven our transgressions and covered our sin. Our faith is in Christ and his work on the cross. We are holy and blameless in your sight.

You have had compassion on us and lavished us with your grace and salvation. You have done for us what we can not do for ourselves.

We praise you that we have been clothed with the righteousness of Christ and that we belong to you forever.

Corporate Communion

Matthew 26:26-29

26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. 29 I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

9.2 The Lord's Supper, also commonly called communion, is an ordinance of Jesus Christ in which gathered believers eat bread, signifying Christ's body broken and given for His people, and drink the fruit of the vine, signifying the New Covenant in Christ's blood shed for us. We do this in remembrance of the Lord, and in doing so proclaim His death until He comes. Those who eat and drink in a worthy manner partake of Christ's body and blood, not physically, but spiritually by faith. They are nourished with the benefits Jesus obtained through his death, and grow in grace as they remember the finished work of Jesus.

Closing Prayer

Benediction

24 ““The Lord bless you
and keep you;

25 the Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;

26 the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.””

(Numbers 6:24-26)