

The
Lazarus
At
Your
Door



The Lazarus At Your Door

This compilation is not a book, nor an edited piece, it is a compilation of my personal devotional time either in the morning or during my afternoon meditations. I am praying that you will find the compilation a blessing regardless of the typing and grammatical errors.

The Lazarus at Your Door

13.12.22

The rich man and Lazarus – exploring grace

Luke 16:19-21

Though the story of the rich man and Lazarus is usually used when speaking of the afterlife, I am seeing God pointing to it for me as I seek to pursue, overtake and recover all.

What are the things God is saying?

1. The certain rich man

- He was rich
- He was clothed in purple and fine linen
- He fared sumptuously daily
- He had a beggar laid by his gate
- Crumbs fell from his table

He was rich

The scriptures introduced this rich man to me as a certain rich man. He was rich in substance. He had enough for himself and even to spare for others. He was rich.

I have also been made rich through Christ's poverty in dying for me on the Cross. He who owns the whole universe left His throne above and became poor for my sake. Even a roof He had not for Himself. It is out of His fullness of riches that I received, even grace for grace. I remember the song "let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich..."

He was clothed in purple and fine linen

This rich man was said to be clothed in purple and fine linen. Purple speaks of royalty. He was rich enough to wear clothing that are elegant and expensive.

So also, am I clothed in royal garments; for I am a royal priesthood, a holy nation... 1 Peter 2:9. I put on the garment of Christ's righteousness obtained through faith, for the best of my own righteousness are nothing but filthy rags.

And as a result of His righteous garment on me, I am expected to put on also bowels of mercy, and even that of compassion if I am indeed going to pursue, overtake and recover all.

How to be clothed

Through my salvation by grace and not through works.

The moment He died for me on the Cross, Christ invited me into the family of God; the royal family. This is the first clothing He offered me. My salvation is a robe I must wear daily.

Through the Holy Spirit

The spirit of God equips and put on me all that is necessary to continue to grow and radiate the riches of God to my dying world. My relationship with the Holy Spirit is vital.

Through my devotional life

My time with the Lord in His Word and prayer clothe me with all that is needed for each day. In His Word, I find answers to my own questions and that of others. Sometimes it is what I have learnt that I used to counsel some of the women that approach me.

Also, I can present my thoughts, concerns and the lives of any Lazarus that may come my way unto the Lord as I commune with Him in prayer. I can't be an effective child of God who dishes out food to people without a consistent prayer life and daily intake of the Word. The best I will offer people will be crumbs, but as I commune with God in prayer and listen in His Word, He equips me with the ability to help those that comes my way. He clothes me with wisdom from His Word.

I remember Proverbs 22:19-21 and which says *“So that your trust may be in the LORD; I have instructed you today, even you. Have I not written to you excellent things Of counsels and knowledge, That I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth, That you may answer words of truth To those who send to you?”*

Other Christians

God has also provided me with clothing from other believers all over the world. Some we see regularly, some I meet in books, and some I hear in preaching. I can't be God's agent to the many Lazarus that God may drop at my door this year without the input of other Christians. I must be gracious to receive from anyone that has something to offer me be it old or young.

Books

I have found growth in books; understanding has indeed come to me as I listen to or read books. And how blessed I am that in my generation, I can just listen to books read out to me and I grasp understanding. I recently read A.W Tozer's Knowledge of the Holy, and another of His book, and

what a huge blessing it was to me. This came to be as I See Nancy recommend His book Knowledge of the Holy while I was reading Lies women believe.

Messages by videos or audio

This is another way that God has really clothed me day in and day out. I have listened to messages of all kinds, some specific ones for my season of life or position. Some to help me understand a Biblical concept. And they have formed part of my clothing.

People come to the person that feels can be of help to them If I am under clothing, I will obscure the intention of God, I will actually hinder the plan of God for those he wants to help because I am short-circuited, so I won't be able to offer Biblical perspective to those that come.

I must continually see to my clothing just as the rich man in this parable dress in royal robes every time.

He fared sumptuously daily

As for this rich man, I was told that he fared sumptuously; that is, he eats whatever he desired to eat. Food was not a problem to him, whatever delicacies he desires, he gets it, for he was rich.

For me also, have I not been fed sumptuously here and there? The Lord has granted me access into the dining room of heaven just as He sat with His disciples at the last supper. He granted me access to the heavenly dining hall and fed me daily in His Word, and all manner of delicacies He has daily placed before me. I am not impoverished at all.

He had a beggar laid by his gate

This certain rich man that was described to me as seen above had a special guest at his door. A beggar was laid by his gate. This beggar was brought there because people knew that he had what the beggar needed. It wasn't an assumption; it was what they knew.

This Lazarus was needy, hungry and transported down to the gate of this certain rich man who fed sumptuously.

And as for me also, do I know that God will be laying beggars at my gate? Old and young people who are beggars that God expected that out of the resourcing He has made available for me, I ought to feed these beggars.

A growing Christian is such that God can entrust the lives of others unto her, knowing that she will have enough for her feeding and that of those laid at her gate.

God is not expecting me to maltreat these so to say souls or look at them through the eyes of beggars, but rather to see them as God sent to me in order to feed them out of the riches of His grace in my life.

He knew that these old and young people that are coming my way are begging, some have begged in the past from the wrong people. Some have begged for drugs and are now addicts. Some have begged to be loved, and thereby became abused and molested. Some are tormented by the devil and had lived in misery for years. And God seemed to be saying, I enriched you so that you can enrich others.

The question to me now is “am I busy with the job of helping to recover the lives of those God brings my way or am I seeing them as mere beggars who are helpless and a nuisance to me? Never must I have such a mindset, for to whom much is given, much is expected.

Crumbs fell from his table

This narrative told me that crumbs fell from this man’s table. Though he may have so much to feed himself and even feed this beggar man, it was crumbs that dropped. What a very selfish and self-centred man this rich man was. He was very callous and heartless.

If all I do is to keep sharing and having women come to me, again and again, to be fed and not help them to know how they can eat directly from the Lord’s table, then they will only be left with crumbs. And God desires to recover women back into His presence.

Crumb is a very small thing broken from something. I can’t help lives that are beggars by keep giving them crumbs, I must show them how to get a full meal from the hands of the Giver of all.

Recovering all is not yet accomplished if women are not helped to gaze at the face of the Giver of all. *The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time.* Psalm 145: 15

The beggars at my door or my gate are to be taught how to turn their eyes unto He who gives proper food at the proper time, and not to keep dishing out crumbs to them, nor ignore their hunger.

Lazarus

- He was a certain beggar
- He was laid by the gate of the rich man's house
- He desired to be fed with crumbs from the rich man's table
- Dogs licked his sores, which means he had wounds.

Some translations says, "the rich man habitually clothes himself." He was rich, he had what it takes to feed the poor Lazarus. It was the awareness of his riches that caused the poor Lazarus to lie at this rich man's gate. I remember the man at the beautiful gate too, who waited by the way to collect a crumb from those that are going into the temple.

Yet, this rich man was callous, untouched by the situation of Lazarus. Lazarus was hungry and physically in need as he had wounds on him. But the rich man couldn't be bothered as long as he was fed and satisfied and put on his purple robes.

The rich man lacked a heart of compassion, so he couldn't care about the afflicted around him.

I see that a lack of compassion makes a rich believer not care for the needy around her. She's satisfied to see them suffer, and their wounds licked by dogs.

Lazarus's wounds

There're many Lazarus around me with visible and invisible wounds. And I have been equipped with what they need to be recovered. But am I willingly giving it out?

I can't pursue, overtake and recover all even though I'm rich if I am not compassionate and concerned about the needs of many around me.

I can't be content that all is well with me, I must be concerned for the welfare of the many Lazarus at my gate.

It's worth noting that Lazarus was by the rich man's gate. For me, this Lazarus could be my child, husband, member etc.

Prayer

- Make me a responsible child of Yours to the Lazarus' You direct my way.
- May I be sensitive to the needs of these ones. Amen

