



Journeying Through the Gospels in Lent



**Thursday
March 20th 2014**

Daily Devotional

“Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall declare your praise”

Welcome to Day fourteen as we bless our day and our life by spending a minimum of 5 minutes on each *segment* or *step below*:

- ✓ **Meditation:** [5 minutes of quiet reflection]
- ✓ **Visualization:** See what your day will be. With conviction, declare how you want your day to unfold and your intentions toward God, his creation and other people who you will be privileged to meet today. And who will be fortunate to encounter you.
- ✓ **Gratitude:** Thankful for the good happenings in your life. Appreciate where you are NOW from where you WERE then.
- ✓ **Inspirational Reading:** Read an article about a person or a situation that will inspire you today.

Collect

O God, who delight in innocence and restore it, direct the hearts of your servants to yourself today, that, caught up in the fire of your Spirit, we may be found steadfast in faith and effective in works. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Today's Readings

Luke 16:19-31

Today's Meditation

Bring us back to you. The story of the Rich Man and Lazarus is our lesson today. We beg to be open to the workings of the Spirit, that we might not settle for the consolations of this life alone. Jesus then said, "I am the one who raises the dead to life! Everyone who has faith in me will live, even if they die. And everyone who lives because of faith in me will never really die. Do you believe this?" -- John 11





Today's Reflection

God has revealed himself in Christ. Let us praise his goodness, and ask him from our hearts to remember us, for we are his children. Teach us to enter more deeply into the mystery of the Kingdom, that it may be more effective for ourselves and for the world as hope of salvation. Lover of all humankind, inspire us to work for human progress, seeking to spread your kingdom in all we do. May our hearts thirst for Christ, the fountain of living water, the source of manner and raiment. Forgive us our sins, and direct our steps into the ways of justice and sincerity.

Closing Prayer:

Loving God, I hear your invitation, "*Come back to me*" and I am filled with such a longing to return to you. Show me the way to return. Lead me this day in faithful service to those who I may encounter, in your name, and send your Holy Spirit to guide me and strengthen my faith. Lord Jesus, Emmanuel, I ask only to feel your love and compassion in my life today.

Luke 16:19-31 (MSG)

The Rich Man and Lazarus

¹⁹⁻²¹ “There once was a rich man, expensively dressed in the latest fashions, wasting his days in conspicuous consumption. A poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, had been dumped on his doorstep. All he lived for was to get a meal from scraps off the rich man’s table. His best friends were the dogs who came and licked his sores.

²²⁻²⁴ “Then he died, this poor man, and was taken up by the angels to the lap of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell and in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham in the distance and Lazarus in his lap. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, mercy! Have mercy! Send Lazarus to dip his finger in water to cool my tongue. I’m in agony in this fire.’

²⁵⁻²⁶ “But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that in your lifetime you got the good things and Lazarus the bad things. It’s not like that here. Here he’s consoled and you’re tormented. Besides, in all these matters there is a huge chasm set between us so that no one can go from us to you even if he wanted to, nor can anyone cross over from you to us.’

²⁷⁻²⁸ “The rich man said, ‘Then let me ask you, Father: Send him to the house of my father where I have five brothers, so he can tell them the score and warn them so they won’t end up here in this place of torment.’

²⁹ “Abraham answered, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets to tell them the score. Let them listen to them.’

³⁰ “‘I know, Father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but they’re not listening. If someone came back to them from the dead, they would change their ways.’

³¹ “Abraham replied, ‘If they won’t listen to Moses and the Prophets, they’re not going to be convinced by someone who rises from the dead.’”

