

Reflection Thursday Week 2 Lent 2025

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus stands as one of Jesus' most striking illustrations of divine justice and the reversal of earthly fortunes. Jesus uses it to challenge our attachment to wealth and comfort with unflinching clarity.

The rich man, in all his finery, feasts sumptuously while Lazarus lies at his gate, his body covered in sores, longing merely for a bite to eat. The gulf between them appears unbridgeable in life. Yet death inverts their positions with cosmic finality. Lazarus finds rest in "Abraham's bosom" while the rich man awakens to torment.

What makes this parable so powerful is not just its warning about wealth's seductive grip, but its revelation that our daily choices create an unbridgeable gulf extending beyond death. "*Between us and you a great chasm has been fixed,*" Abraham tells the rich man. A chasm mirroring the one the rich man had established by repeatedly ignoring the suffering on his doorstep.

The rich man's failure wasn't extravagant evil but ordinary indifference. He stepped over Lazarus daily so that his suffering became invisible through habitual neglect. In doing so, he gradually blinded himself to the divine presence in his neighbour.

The parable concludes with a sobering truth: those deaf to Scripture won't be persuaded even by resurrection. Transformation comes not through spectacular signs but through the quiet opening of our eyes to the Lazarus's at our gates, whose presence offers us the opportunity to bridge any chasms we've created.