



Peel Valley Congregation

Gowrie, Hallsville & West Tamworth

28 September 2025

Rev Geoff Flynn

Rev Sam Sadrata

Meg Mangan

Luke 16:19-31 (NRSV)

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day.

And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores.

The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’

But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’

He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’

Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’

He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

1 Timothy 6:6-19 (NRSV)

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction.

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains. But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness.

Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Other Lectionary Readings:

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 Psalms 91:1-6, 14-16



Tamworth Regional Uniting Churches Newsletter.

This week's gospel is one of Jesus' parables that can sound confronting at first. We hear of the rich man who lived in comfort, and Lazarus who suffered at his gate. When both die, their situations are reversed: Lazarus is held safe in Abraham's arms, while the rich man is left in torment.

On the surface, it can feel like a story about judgment. But if we listen with the ears of faith, there is also a deep promise here—especially for those of us who carry frailty in our bodies, or who live with the limitations that illness and age bring.

The parable tells us this: God sees Lazarus. God does not overlook the one who suffers, or the one who has been pushed aside. The world may have passed Lazarus by, but God did not. When Lazarus died, he was gathered into a place of comfort, peace, and belonging. This is our hope too. Our Lord is not blind to our struggles. God knows the pain of aching bones, the weariness of long nights, the grief of losing strength. Yet this passage assures us that we are not forgotten. When we come to the end of our days, we are received into God's embrace. Jesus paints the picture of Abraham's bosom—an image of deep safety, of being held close like a beloved child.

That is the hope that carries us, even when life feels hard. Death is not the end, nor is suffering the final word. God's final word is always life, mercy, and comfort.

And there is something for us who remain here, too. The parable gently asks us to open our eyes and hearts to those in need around us. Just as God saw Lazarus, we are called to notice those who are struggling in our community, and to bear one another's burdens. In doing so, we embody Christ's love here and now.

So today, take courage. Whether you are strong or weak, whether your days feel full or numbered, God sees you. And just as Lazarus was carried into peace, so too will you be gathered into the everlasting arms of the One who loves you without end.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Rev Sam

CHURCH SERVICES 11am West Tamworth

5 October Holy Communion ~Rev Sam

Lunch to follow.

12 October ~ Meg Mangan.



The Rich Man and Lazarus



"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.'" Luke 16:25 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 16:19-31 (NIV).

A G O N Y G O O D G M D U I A
X Q S Y B H W K K F S D I L D
H R T A U P U R P L E O M E E
T I Z E R W N L W K R H R C D
P L T L I A B R C E E V E E L
S A V U E T L I G U S P P L S
G Z G X D E L N G A L E E N L
Q A S U G R I N D X X A N K O
D R W R L F O L U R E I T Z J
O U L Y D T H J A L E W B N D
G S Q R I C H P B N I S N F N
S H O B F A B A Q B G Q S E B
N E L M A W T W A R N E N E O
E V L B F D K T G O Y I L W D
B E G G A R Y P P Q L Q R S D

AGONY	BEGGAR	DIED	BAD	ANGELS
DOGS	WATER	WARN	HELL	PITY
GOOD	TABLE	LICKED	PURPLE	DRESSED
LINEN	GATE	LAZARUS	RICH	TONGUE
BURIED	SORES	FINGER	REPENT	LUXURY

~ Sermons 4 Kids



"...they're different colors, have strange names, but all learn to live together in the same box."



Fabulous Finds Op Shop @ Hallsville

9:30 to 1:00pm Thursday, Friday & Saturday

Cuppa and a chat always available.

PEEL VALLEY CONGREGATION

Our goal: "To be transformed communities, experiencing, enjoying & sharing the gift of the friendship of Jesus."

Mission: "Called to be Free, Gifted to Serve."

Minister: Rev Geoff Flynn 0421 338 202

Rev Sam Sadrata 0431 216 188

Pastoral Care: Meg Mangan 0476 375 989

Elder: Margaret Crowell

P.O. BOX 3315 WEST TAMWORTH



Sunday, 5 October: 2am
Daylight Savings begins
~ clocks forward 1hr

..... enjoy & share the gift of the friendship of Jesus