

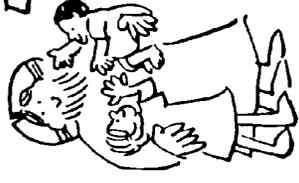
# THE SUNDAY PAPER

# JUNIOR

Year C

PROPER 21

TRACKS 1 and 2



## A NOTE TO PARENTS

The story of the Rich Man and Lazarus is one of the scariest stories in the Bible. The rich man had nice clothes and plenty to eat every day. So do I. He went about his business, enjoying life, not wishing anyone any harm. So do I.

Nowhere does the story say that he was actively gouging the poor or wasting God's plenty; he may have said grace at every meal and been saving up for retirement and his children's education. Yet, Jesus tells us with chilling terseness, he "died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he looked up ..." In plain English, he went to Hell.

It has been pointed out that this is the only one of Jesus's parables in which someone has a name. Not the rich man: he is anonymous, a stock character, an interchangeable part; he is you, and me. But the beggar's name is Lazarus. He is a person, with a birthday and a story, someone who is himself and no one else. God knows him; God knows his name. When he dies and goes to Heaven, Father Abraham knows him, and welcomes him to his breast. The dogs at our back door know him; only we don't know him.

Most little children, when they see someone sitting dazed and dirty on the sidewalk or panhandling on the corner, want to stop and help. For them, this is a person with a name and a story; it's Mommy or Daddy who says, "Don't talk to that person," or "Not now, we're in a hurry," or even, "Yes, isn't that sad; it's good there's a soup kitchen downtown." The rich man was condemned for turning away from the human being at his own door. Today, with worldwide communications and nightly TV news, we can't help knowing that billions of Lazaruses are spread all over the globe. We cannot possibly help them all; we must, as finite people with only 24 hours in our day and one lifetime to live, turn away from helping many, many real people, with names and stories, whose plight becomes known to us. But we must not let this terrible necessity allow us to become so overwhelmed, so paralyzed, that we learn to turn away from them all—especially from the ones at our own back door. What has your child drawn on the back of this page? Is it something you are already doing ... or is now the time to start?

© 1989 by Gretchen Wolff Pritchard. All rights reserved.

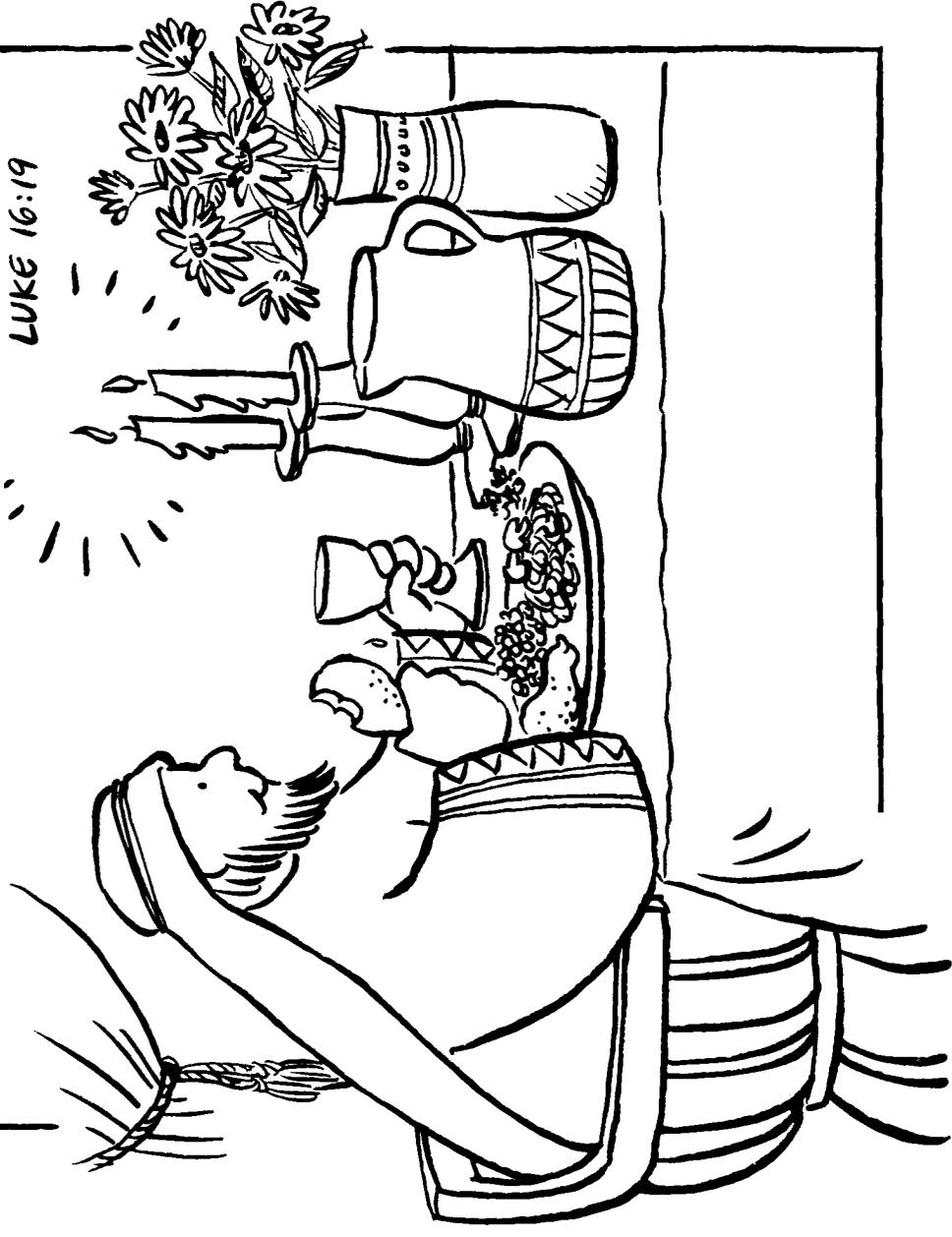
THE SUNDAY PAPER, 19 Colony Road, New Haven, CT 06511, USA

203 - 624-2520 • www.the-sunday-paper.com

JESUS TOLD THIS STORY:

*"Once there was a rich man who had fine clothes and plenty of everything ..."*

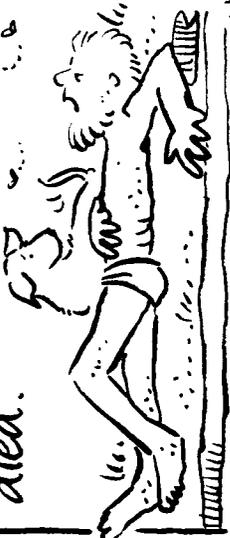
LUKE 16:19



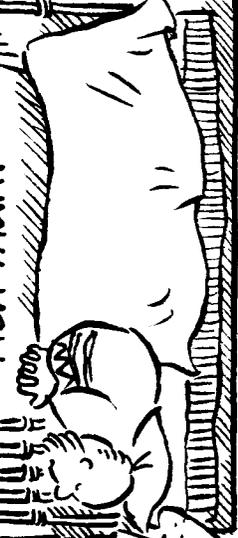
"At the rich man's back door was a sick man named Lazarus. He was homeless and hungry."



"Time passed. Lazarus died."



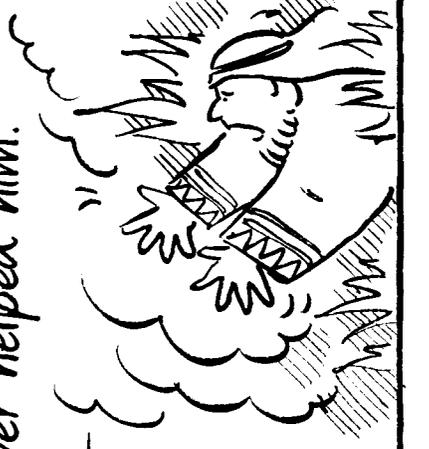
"So did the rich man."



"God gave Lazarus rest on Father Abraham's lap. But the rich man had no rest."



"The rich man cried to Abraham, 'Send Lazarus to help me!' But Abraham answered, 'Too late. You never helped him.'"



In the story, the rich man asked Lazarus to go back to earth, and warn his friends not to be as selfish as he had been. But Abraham said, "They have warning enough in the Bible."

The Bible does tell us, over and over again, to help people who are poor, or sick, or homeless. What can your family or your church do to help? Draw it here.