

WHAT WE FOUND

We rescued the shrewd steward from scandal: Jesus commends the foresight, never the fraud, and instructs the conversion. St. Ambrose preached from Luke 16:9: let the mammon that fails you purchase friends who will last forever; the poor befriended by our mammon become our receivers at heaven's door. We met Lazarus at the gate, the only figure in any parable to be given a personal name of his own (Abraham appears in the same scene, but as the well-known patriarch, not an invented character), and learned the particular judgment from the Catechism's own text (CCC 1021), while handling the chasm with precision: the scene is Hades before the resurrection, and purgatory, the purification of the already-saved, was never on the far side of it.

We discovered why Jesus sent ten lepers to the priests: Leviticus 14 makes the priest the ordained verifier and restorer of the cleansed, a pattern that walks straight into the confessional (Jn 20:23; CCC 1461), and the healing happened as they went, inside the obedience. Then one turned back, fell at Jesus' feet eucharistōn, giving thanks, the Eucharist's own verb, and he was a Samaritan. Ten were cleansed; one was told your faith has made you well, and the Greek verb there, sesoken, is the very word for saved. The difference was thanksgiving.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

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St. John Chrysostom (*Sermons on Lazarus (De Lazaro)*)

The rich man's sin is never named as fraud, only as a gate passed daily without seeing. Not to share our surplus with the poor is itself a theft from them, for our goods were entrusted for distribution.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Cyril of Alexandria (*Commentary on Luke, on the ten lepers*)

They were cleansed not where they stood but as they went, faith walking before sight. Nine carried away their health as a possession; one brought it back as a thanksgiving, and gratitude is the health of the healed.

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Ambrose of Milan (*Exposition of Luke, on the steward*)

The Lord commends foresight, not fraud: do with justice what the steward did with cunning. Only what is given to the poor travels ahead of us, and the friends mammon makes among them will testify for us at the everlasting doors.

LIVE IT THIS WEEK

- Stay two extra minutes after Communion this week, on your knees, and name the mercies. Be the tenth.
- Convert some mammon: give where repayment is impossible, in honor of the man at the gate.
- Name your gate, the need you pass daily without seeing, and stop once this week.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Luke 16:10 *He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. (RSV2CE)*

Before next session: read Luke 18:1–19:27, a persistent widow, two men at prayer, and a small man in a tree.

Catechism this week: CCC 1021–1022, 633, 2007, 1461, 1360.