

The Parable of the Rich Man

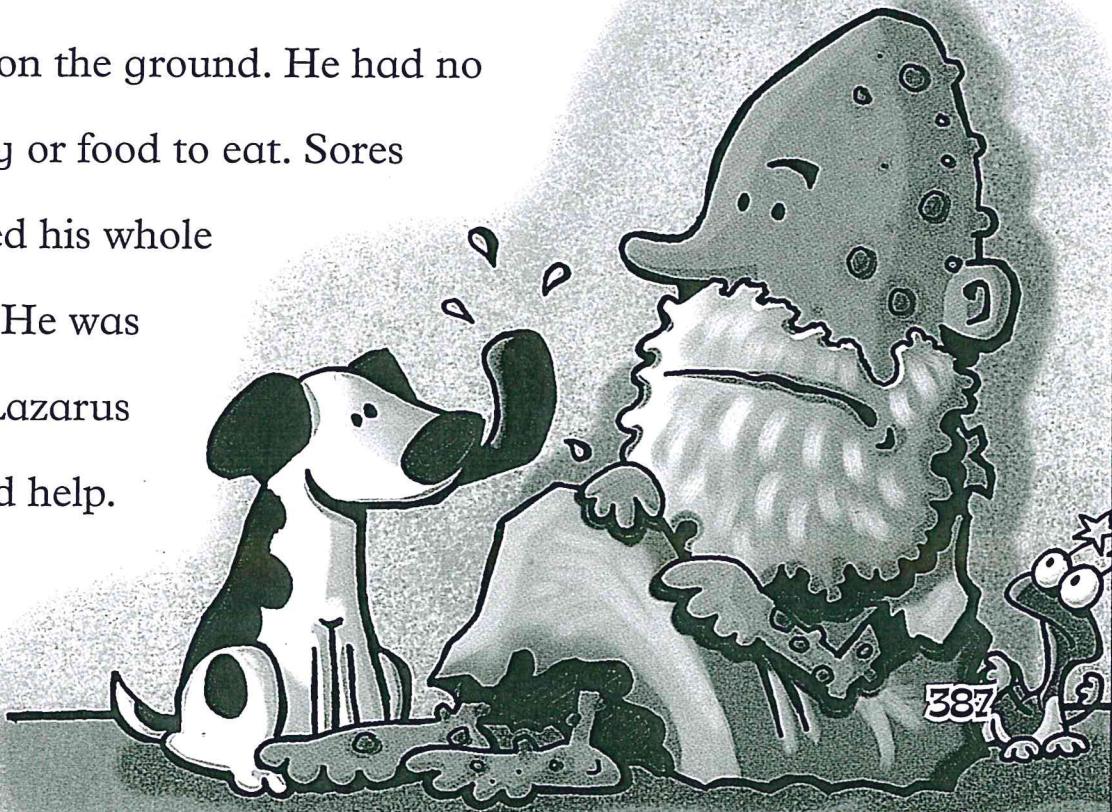


Jesus told this story about helping people.

One day, after he ate a huge lunch, a rich man said, "I'm so full! I couldn't eat another bite. I'm going to take a nap." He closed his eyes and went to sleep.

"Ow! Ow! Ow!" The sounds of moaning came from outside. They got louder and louder. Soon the sounds woke up the rich man. "Who's making that awful sound?" he asked.

The rich man looked out the window and saw a man named Lazarus lying on the ground. He had no money or food to eat. Sores covered his whole body. He was sick. Lazarus needed help.



Instead of helping, the rich man shouted, "Be quiet you old beggar!" He went back to his chair and closed his eyes again. Later that day, Lazarus died right outside the rich man's house.

When Lazarus died, he went to heaven to be with God. In heaven, he had no sores. He was not sick. All of his problems were gone.



The rich man died too. He didn't go to heaven. He was far away from God, but the rich man could see Lazarus in heaven.

"Help me," the rich man begged Lazarus. But they were too far apart. It was impossible for Lazarus to do anything for him. "I'm sorry. I can't reach you. I can't help you," said Lazarus.

When he was living, the rich man thought he was too important to help Lazarus. He didn't care what happened to Lazarus. After he died, the rich man realized the mistake he had made.

Jesus told the people, "I want you to see the people who need help. Open your eyes. Use your ears. Help everyone you can."



Try asking this question of at least three people today, "How can I help?"