

Short Talk

(SHT170)

How do we treat the poor?

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SHORT TALK: “How do we treat the poor?”

- Aim of Short talk:** To challenge people to notice those who are living with very little and to share what they have as opportunities open.
- Use of Short talk:** This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
- Main themes:** Rich, Poor, Sharing,
- Biblical references:** Luke 16:19-31
- Lectionary:** Year C – 15th Sunday after Trinity
- Props:** You need a table laid out with some biscuits and chocolates, and a piece of purple material that you can wrap around a volunteer.
- Before the service:** You will need to choose 2 volunteers and brief them before the service. You need:
- a male volunteer; either an older child or a teenager who will play the part of the rich man. Explain to them that when they sit at the table, you want them to eat some of the food that is on it.
 - a male volunteer of any age who will play the part of Lazarus. Explain to them that they are to lie in full view to the congregation a little way from the rich man.

.....

One of the things that really matters to Father God is how we treat people who are poor;

- who have much less money than we do,
- although spiritually, it may be that we have a lot to learn from them.

Jesus told a story about this one day to His listeners.

- Now I need my 2 volunteers to come forward. *(2 volunteers join you)*

Let me introduce you to a very rich man. *(Point to volunteer 1)*

- He has very expensive clothes. *(Drape the purple material around Him)*
- He lives a life of luxury every day, eating expensive food until he is full to overflowing. *(Sit N1 down at the table and he begins to eat the food on the table)*

Now let me introduce you to Lazarus. *(Point to volunteer 2)*

He is a very poor man.....

- in fact he is so poor that his body is covered in sores because he never gets enough to eat.

This poor man lay outside the gates of the rich man's house, "*longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table,*" (Luke 16:21)

- but the rich man gave Lazarus nothing to eat,
- absolutely nothing,
- even though he had more than enough to be able to share.

What do you think God thinks about this situation? (*Receive responses*)

- From what I have read in the Bible, God would be both sad and angry about this.
- Sad because there is enough food for both men and angry because the rich man is being so selfish.

What do you think God would say to the rich man? (*Receive responses*)

- I think He would say: "*Share what you have with Lazarus.*"
- So rich man, share what you have with Lazarus. (*Lazarus gets up and sits at the table with rich man and eats something*)

Now you and I may not live in luxury like the man in Jesus' story,

- but we all know that there are people in this world who have a lot less than we do.

There are people who go to bed hungry every night because there is no food for them to eat.

- There are people who only have the clothes that they are wearing because they have no money to buy new ones.
- There are people who have nowhere to live so they sleep in cardboard boxes on our streets.

All these people who are living with very little are precious to Father God....

- He loves them and it makes his heart sad that they are suffering like this.

So, Father God wants you and me to do something about it.

- He wants us to share with other people some of what we have.
- There are all sorts of different ways of doing this.

[You might talk about any projects that your church is involved with]

When you go to the supermarket and do your food shopping, buy some extra food and give it to the local foodbank.

- Instead of buying more new clothes, think about buying clothes from a charity shop and giving the money that you save to aid agencies who help provide food and water to people who have nothing.

If you see someone who is homeless in your town, offer to buy them some food and a hot drink.

Let's notice the people around us who have very little, and then look for opportunities to share with them some of what we have.

- This will make Father God's heart very happy.