

## Herren hjælper!

Prædiken 22. juni 2025. Aarhus og Kbh, LGJ.  
Salmer: 312, 598, 28 // 444, 46

### Lukas 16,19-31

Der var en rig mand, som klædte sig i purpur og fint linned og hver dag levede i fest og pragt. Men en fattig mand ved navn Lazarus lå ved hans port, fuld af sår, og ønskede kun at spise sig mæt i det, der faldt fra den riges bord, og hundene kom tilmed og slikkede hans sår. Så døde den fattige, og han blev af englene båret hen i Abrahams skød. Også den rige døde og blev begravet. Da han slog øjnene op i dødsriget, hvor han pintes, ser han Abraham langt borte og Lazarus i hans skød. Fader Abraham! råbte han, forbarm dig over mig og send Lazarus, så han kan dyppe spidsen af sin finger i vand og læske min tunge, for jeg pines i disse luer. Men Abraham svarede: Barn, husk på, at du fik dit gode, mens du levede, og Lazarus på samme måde det onde; nu trøstes han her, mens du pines. Desuden er der lagt en dyb kløft mellem os og jer, for at de, som vil herfra over til jer, ikke skal kunne det, og de heller ikke skal komme over til os derovre. Da sagde han: Så beder jeg dig, fader, at du vil sende ham til min fars hus, for jeg har fem brødre, for at han kan advare dem, så ikke også de kommer til dette pinested. Men Abraham svarede: De har Moses og profeterne, dem kan de høre. Nej, fader Abraham! sagde han, men kommer der en til dem fra de døde, vil de omvende sig. Abraham svarede: Hvis de ikke hører Moses og profeterne, vil de heller ikke lade sig overbevise, selv om en står op fra de døde."

#### 1. Tilhørerne

... Alt det hørte de pengeglade farisæere, og de gjorde nar af ham. (Luk 16,13-14).

Tilhørerne var farisæere, som evangelisten beskriver som "pengeglade". Jesus havde sagt: "Ingen kan tjene to Herre, ikke både Gud og Mammon." Og de gjorde nar. For hvad vidste denne fattige rabbi om penge. Men Jesus holdt fast og sagde: Gud kender jeres hjerte." (v15). - Vor Herre Jesus har forstand på penge. Og han ved, hvad der er i vore hjerter. Vi behøver at Jesus taler til hjertet, for at kende ham og vort hjertet.

Jesus føjede til: Enhver, som skiller sig fra sin hustru og gifter sig med en anden, begår ægteskabsbrud, og den, der gifter sig med en fraskilt kvinde, begår ægteskabsbrud (v18). Og igen kunne de rynke på næsen og gøre nar. For hvad forstand

## The Lord is helping!

Sermon June 22, 2025. Aarhus and Cph. LGJ.  
Hymns: 312, 598, 28 // 444, 46

### Luke 16:19-31 ESV

19 "There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. 20 And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, 21 who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, 23 and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. 24 And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' 25 But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. 26 And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' 27 And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house-- 28 for I have five brothers-- so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' 29 But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' 30 And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' 31 He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.'"

#### 1. The audience

... The money-loving Pharisees heard all this, and they mocked him. (Luke 16:13-14). The audience was Pharisees, whom the evangelist describes as "money-loving." Jesus had said, "No one can serve two masters, not both God and Mammon." And they made fun of it. For what did this poor rabbi know about money? But Jesus persisted, saying, 'God knows your heart.'" (v15). - Our Lord Jesus knows about money. And He knows what is in our hearts. We need Jesus to speak to our hearts in order for us to know him and our hearts.

Jesus added: Everyone who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery (v18). And again, they could wrinkle their noses and make

havde denne ugifte rabbi på kvinder? Men Guds Søn, Jesus Kristus, kender vore hjerter.

Jesus taler til dem og os om at nyde sig selv gennem sin indtægt. Og at få en kæreste for nydelsens skyld. Undgå at binde sig. At skille sig for nydelsens skyld. Og finde sig en anden for nydelsens skyld. Han viser os, hvad Gud ser i hjertet. Og for at det må blive konkret for dem og os fortæller han om to mænd.

## 2. To mænd

*Der var en rig mand, som klædte sig i purpur og fint linned og hver dag levede i fest og pragt. ... Men en fattig mand ved navn Lazarus lå ved hans port, fuld af sår, og ønskede kun at spise sig mæt i det, der faldt fra den riges bord, og hundene kom tilmed og slikkede hans sår.*

Vi ser et glimt af de to mænd her i livet. Nydelse og lidelse. Og vi ser også, hvad der sker, når de dør. Den fattige Lazarus dør. Han bæres af englene hjem i herlighed – i Abrahams skød. Hvorfor lige Abraham? Fordi han er troens fader. Det er ham, i hvis sæd alle jordens slægter skal velsignes. Lazarus var velsignet ved tro og blev frelst i evighed.

Også den rige døde. Rigdommens nydelse frelser ingen, men kan gøre os skyldige! Den rige var rig på nydelse. *Klædte sig i purpur og fint linned og hver dag levede i fest og pragt.* Men han slog øjnene op i pinestedet. Dommen ramte ham. Det er, hvad et liv i selvnydelse fører til.

Hvordan hjælper Gud mennesket til et godt liv? Hvordan tilgiver og frelser Gud os fra lidelse og skyld? Det svarer Jesus på, når han fortæller, hvad Abraham sagde om den rige mands brødre: *De har Moses og profeterne, dem kan de høre.* Og lad os lytte.

## 3. Herren hjælper gennem Moses

Moses fortæller, at Gud sagde, at det ikke er godt at mennesket er alene. Jeg vil give ham en HJÆLPER. Og det minder Lazarus os om. Navnet Lazarus betyder: Herren hjælper. Lazarus blev hjulpet af Herren.

Først hjalp han ham ved at give ham en rig mand. - Sådan giver Gud os mennesker til hinanden, for at vi skal hjælpe. Det er meningen med, at vi har fået hinanden i en kristen menighed: At vi kan få hjælp af hinanden. Herren hjælper os gennem vore vor mor og far, søskende, venner og en kristen menighed. Guds hjælp gennem andre mennesker er grunden til, at vi lever og er nået til denne dag.

fun of him. For what sense did this unmarried rabbi have of women? But the Son of God, Jesus Christ, knows our hearts.

Jesus speaks to them and to us about enjoying oneself through one's income. And to get a girlfriend for pleasure. To divorce for pleasure. And find someone else for pleasure. He shows us what God sees in the heart. And so that it can be concrete for them and us, he tells us about two men.

## 2. Two men

*There was a rich man who dressed himself in purple and fine linen, and lived every day in feast and splendor. ... But a poor man named Lazarus lay at his gate, full of wounds, and only wanted to eat what fell from the rich man's table, and the dogs even came and licked his wounds.*

We see a glimpse of the two men in this life. Pleasure and pain. And we also see what happens when they die. Poor Lazarus dies. He is carried home by the angels in glory – *to Abraham's side*. Why Abraham? Because he is the father of faith. It is he in whose seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. Lazarus was blessed by faith and was eternally saved.

The rich also died. The enjoyment of wealth does not save anybody, but can make us guilty! The rich man was rich in pleasure. *Dressed in purple and fine linen, and every day lived in feast and splendor.* But he opened his eyes in the place of torment. The verdict hit him. That is what a life of self-indulgence leads to.

How does God help a human being to live a good life? How does God forgive and save from suffering and guilt? Jesus answers this question when he tells what Abraham said about the rich man's brothers: *They have Moses and the prophets, they can hear them.* And let us listen.

## 3. The Lord Helps Through Moses

Moses tells us that God said that it is not good for man to be alone. I will give him a HELPER. And Lazarus reminds us of that. The name Lazarus means: The Lord helps. Lazarus was helped by the Lord.

First, he helped him by giving him a rich man. - This is how God gives us people to each other so that we can help. That is the purpose of having each other in a Christian church: That we can get help from each other. The Lord helps us through our mother and father, siblings, friends and a Christian congregation. God's help through other people is the reason why we are alive and have reached this day.

Hjælpe. Det er meningen med ægteskabet og at der er mand og kvinde, at de hjælper hinanden. Indtil døden skiller dem. At de giver livet videre og sørger for deres børn. Det står hos Moses i 1 Mosebog 1-2. "*Vi har Moses. Dem kan vi høre.*"

Åh, hvor vi behøver Moses for se, hvor mange måder Gud hjælper os på, og at vi også skal hjælpe hinanden. Men også for at se, hvor vi ikke har hjulpet – og at vi har brug for hjælp og frelse.

Moses fortæller jo om den første hjælper, Eva, som var givet til Adam som hjælper. Adam hjalp ikke Eva i fristelsen, men var tavs. Og hun hjalp ikke ham, men lod sig friste. Og de gemte sig. Nu var de første mennesker på vej i døden og havde brug for hjælp.

Men Moses prædiker også evangeliet til os, når han fortæller, at Gud lovede at kvinden skulle få et barn, som ville knuse den Onde og frelse dem (1 Mos 3,15). Og Herren iklædte dem skindtøj. Han gav dem håb midt i døden. Og mange hundreder år senere fødte Maria Frelseren. – Vi har Guds ord hos Moses, så vi kan råbe om hjælp. Vi har fået Jesus!

#### 4. Herren hjælper gennem profeterne

Vi har også profeterne. Vi hørte Guds ord i Esajas 58: *Tror I, det er den faste, jeg ønsker, / at mennesket spæger sit legeme, hænger med hovedet som et siv / og ligger i sæk og aske? Er det det, I kalder faste, / en dag til Herrens behag? Nej, den faste, jeg ønsker, / er at løse ondskabens lænker og sprænge ågets bånd, / at sætte de undertrykte i frihed, / og bryde hvert åg; ja, at du deler dit brød med den sultne, / giver husly til hjemløse stakler, at du har klæder til den nøgne / og ikke vender ryggen til dine egne.*

Den rige mand vendte ryggen til en af sine egne, til Lazarus. Han havde Profeternes ord, men hørte ikke på ordene. Han hørte ikke, hvad han skulle bruge sit liv til. Han hørte heller ikke om sin svigt og synd. Han søgte ikke Herren om hjælp i livet. Og da gik det med os i døden, som Jesus fortæller! Evig fortabelse.

Men vi har profeterne. Og i dag særligt Esajas 58 om at hjælpe.

Hvad kan den tekst gøre ved os? Det er en nærliggende tanke, vi skal forsøge at blive bedre mennesker, så vi bliver frelst. Men profeten Esajas hjælper os til at forstå, at det ikke er sådan vi bliver frelst. Han har nemlig lige forinden sagt: "*Din retfærdighed og dine gerninger kan ikke gavne dig, når du råber om hjælp.*" (Es 57,12).

Hvad kan da hjælpe os?

Help. That is the meaning of marriage and that there is a man and a woman: that they help each other. Until death do them part. That they pass on their lives and take care of their children. It is written by Moses in Genesis 1-2. "*We have Moses. We can hear them.*"

Oh, how we need Moses to see how many ways God helps us and that we need to help each other too. But also to see where we have not helped – and that we need help and salvation.

Moses tells about the first helper, Eve, who was given to Adam as a helper. Adam did not help Eve in her temptation but was silent. And she did not help him, but allowed herself to be tempted. And they hid. Now the first people were on their way to death and needed help.

But Moses preaches the Gospel to us when he tells us that God promised that the woman would have a child who would crush the Evil One and save them. Adam and Eve were given garments by God and hope in the midst of death. And hundreds of years later Mary bore it the Savior. "We have God's Word with Moses, so we can cry out for help. We have got Jesus!

#### 4. The Lord Helps Through the Prophets

We also have the prophets. We heard God's words in Isaiah 58: *Do you think it is the fast that I want, / that man should span his body, hang with his head like a reed, / and lie in sackcloth and ashes? Is this what you call fasting, / a day pleasing to the Lord? No, the fast I want / is to loosen the chains of evil and break the bands of evil, / to set the oppressed at liberty, / and break every yoke; yes, that you share your bread with the hungry, / give shelter to the homeless wretches, that you have clothes for the naked / and do not turn your back on your own.*

The rich man turned his back on one of his own, on Lazarus. He had the words of the Prophets, but did not listen to the words. He didn't hear what he was going to do with his life. Nor did he hear of his failure and sin. He did not seek the Lord for help in life. And then it goes with us in death, as Jesus tells! Eternal damnation.

We have the prophets. And today especially Isaiah 58 about helping.

What can this text do to us? It is an obvious thought, we should try to become better people so that we can be saved. But the prophet Isaiah helps us to understand that this is not how we are saved. For he has just said in the previous chapter: "*Your righteousness and your works cannot profit you when you cry out for help.*" (Isaiah 57:12).

So what can help us?

Det har profeten også sagt før vor tekst, når Herren siger: *"Jeg anklager ikke for evigt og vredes ikke for altid. ... Jeg så deres færd og jeg vil helbrede dem og skaffe dem hvile, jeg giver dem trøst til gengæld."* (Es 57,16.18). [Gentag.]

Bagved denne helbredelse og trøst står Herren selv, Jesus Kristus, som er vor Herre. Esajas fortæller om ham kapitel 53,4-5: *Men det var vore sygdomme, han tog, det var vore lidelser, han bar; ... Han blev gennemboret for vore overtrædelser og knust for vore synder. Han blev straffet, for at vi kunne få fred. Ved hans sår blev vi helbredt.* Det er jo næsten, som om vi ser Lazarus for os. Jesus er Lazarus. Jesus lider i vort sted. Der ligger han og er hos os.

### **5. Moses og Profeterne, som vender os til Jesus**

Moses og profeterne hjælper os og overbeviser os om vore synder og svigt. Og om Guds hjælp, hvordan han ikke anklager for evigt, men lader sin egen Søn blive menneske og dø i vort sted. Tænk hvor stort og godt.

*"De har Moses og profeterne, dem kan de høre."* Abraham sagde det i samtalen med den rige mand, som ville redde sine fem brødre fra dommen. Men den rige mand råbte tilbage: *"Nej, fader Abraham. Men kommer der en til mine brødre fra de døde, vil de omvende sig."* Men han har ikke ret. For ingen af os til at indser, hvad vi skylder Gud og vor næste, fordi vi oplever et mirakel eller at en står op fra de døde. Det overbeviser os ikke om, at vi behøver Jesus som vor frelser. Men det gør Moses og profeterne.

Gud anklager ikke for evigt. Det ved vi, fordi han lod sin egen kære søn rammes af alle anklagerne, som med rette kan rettes mod os. Derfor rammes du ikke af en eneste anklage. For det har ramt Jesus Kristus. Så ved du i troen på Jesus, at englene vil bære os hjem i Abrahams skød den dag, vi skal dø. Gud ske tak ved Jesus Kristus, vor Herre. Så er der nu ingen fordømmelse for den, som er i Kristus Jesus.

Så kan vi gå videre i troen på Jesus, som vi er døbt til at tilhøre. Og vi må i tak tage imod hjælp fra hinanden og andre og hjælpe dem med den trøst og hjælp, vi selv har fået af Gud. Amen.

The prophet gives us the answer just before our text when the Lord says: *"I do not accuse forever and am not angry forever. ... I saw their way and I will heal them and give them rest, I will give them comfort in return."* (Isaiah 57:16, 18). [Repeat.]

Behind this healing and comfort stands the Lord Himself, Jesus Christ, who is our Lord. Isaiah tells us about him chapter 53:4-5: *But it was our sicknesses that he took, it was our afflictions that he bore; ... He was pierced for our transgressions and bruised for our sins. He was punished so that we could have peace. By his wounds we were healed.* It is almost as if we are imagining Lazarus. Amazing. Jesus is Lazarus. Jesus suffers in our place. There he lies and is with us.

### **5. Moses and the Prophets who turns us to Jesus**

Moses and the prophets help us and convince us of our sins and failures. And about God's help, how He does not accuse forever, but lets His own Son become man and die in our place. Imagine how big and good.

*"They have Moses and the prophets, they can hear them."* Abraham said this in the conversation with the rich man who wanted to save his five brothers from judgment. But the rich man shouted back, *"No, Father Abraham. But if one comes to my brothers from the dead, they will repent."* But he is not right. For none of us to realize what we owe to God and our neighbor because we experience a miracle or someone rising from the dead. It does not convince us that we need Jesus as our Savior. But Moses and the prophets do.

God does not accuse forever. We know this because he let his own dear son suffer all the accusations that can rightly be levelled against us. Therefore you are not hit by any single accusation. Because it has happened to Jesus Christ. Then you know by faith in Jesus that the angels will carry us home in Abraham's side on the day we are going to die. Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. There is now no condemnation for him who is in Christ Jesus. - Therefore we today can move forward in faith in Jesus, to whom we are baptized to belong. And we will in thankfulness receive help from each other and others in gratitude, and also help them with the comfort and help we ourselves have received from God. Amen.