

# WALK IN LOVE

as Christ loved us and gave himself for us.

Ephesians 5:2



## Reflection by Wendy Steeves –

Where are the places in my life where I have encountered the pain and suffering of others? As I read this gospel passage from Luke, my heart asks, “Why does the rich man not see Lazarus laying at the gate each day, parched with thirst and heat, while sores covering his skeletal body ooze with infection and pain? Or if he does see Lazarus, why is it that the rich man does not engage with Lazarus in some way?” What experiences in my life come to mind as I reflect on this passage?

As I commute to work, I see homeless men and women standing on the medians of major roads with cardboard signs pleading, “Homeless. Please help.” They stand in the blistering sun, in the rain, in the pollution, and in the judgement passers-by may pass on them. I feel uncomfortable and saddened each time I see them, and I ask, “What am I to do for them?” Some days I give them money. Other times I give them food that I have with me if they want to receive it. Sometimes all I can do is offer a prayer of thanks that God is with them, and pray for guidance on how I am to help and serve in these moments.

When I feel discouraged that my efforts are not enough to make much of a difference, I draw on the story of the loaves and fishes told in John 6:

1-15, where Jesus transforms what little is offered in faith, into enough to meet the needs of the many. That miracle, to me, is a window into the mystery of faith. It asks me to offer what I have, and to ask the Lord to bless the work I do in His name, so that it may become salve in some way for the painful sores of those who are in need.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s words come to mind as he speaks of the Jesus Movement during his first address as Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church: [Jesus says] “Follow me and I will help you change the world from the nightmare it often is into the dream that God intends.”

(<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/presiding-bishop-michael-curry-jesus-movement-and-we-are-episcopal-church>)



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Proper 21 | Luke 16:19-31

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## Reflection Questions

- Where have you encountered the suffering of others?
- How do you respond when you encounter others’ suffering?
- How do you respond when you encounter your own suffering?
- Learn more about Buck Mountain Episcopal in Earleysville at:

[www.buckmountainchurch.org](http://www.buckmountainchurch.org)

