



■ † Fifth Sunday of St. Luke

“We must be thoroughly certain that we will not also find ourselves in the place of the rich man”*



The parable about the rich man and Lazarus shows that those who do not live as they should will suddenly wake up to reality, but they will no longer have the opportunity to correct their state.

Their eyes will open and they will clearly see where the truth lies. Remembering that on earth there are many who are blind just as they had been, they will want someone to be sent from the dead to convince them that one must live and understand things only according to the Lord’s Revelation and in no other way.

But they will be denied even this, because for those who desire to know the truth, Revelation alone is a witness. On the other hand, for those who do not desire it and do not love the truth, even the very resurrection of one from the dead would not be convincing.

The feelings of the rich man in this parable are probably felt by everyone who departs this life. Consequently, according to the belief of that world, which will be the belief of all of us, the only guidance for us on the path of life is the Lord’s Revelation.

But there, for many, this belief will have come too late—it would have been more useful here, but not everyone had it.

Let us, at least, believe the testimony of those there, putting ourselves into their state. Those who are in torments do not lie; pitying us, they want our eyes to be opened, so that we will not come to the place of their torment.

We cannot say about this subject, as we often do about ordinary matters, “Maybe somehow it will pass.” No, it will not somehow pass. We must be thoroughly certain that we will not also find ourselves in the place of the rich man.



(*) St. Theophan the Recluse, *Thoughts for Each Day of the Year According to the Daily Church Readings from the Word of God*.