



## Listen to the Voice of Creation: The Forgotten Voices that have been Muted for far too Long

**Gospel: Luke 16:19-31- *"The Rich Man and Lazarus"***

St. Luke, chapter 16:19-31 presents to us "the human nature that desires to live comfortably." He makes us aware of the need to share our wealth with the voices that have been mute for such a long time; the hungry Lazarus, representing human race, the dog, representing all animals, and all of creation that is affected by climate change.



The COVID Pandemic greatly affected the lives of many of our brothers and sisters. In some parts of the world, there are underage girls who got pregnant, dropped out of school, and remained mute. There are boys who dropped out of school, joined street families, and became drug addicts. Many people lost their jobs and livelihood. Many flee their homes in hopes of finding a better life.

### Let us listen to voices that have been muted for far too long...

Testimony 1: I am Mary (Not real Name), 14 years old. During the Pandemic, my country declared lock down for 4 months and all students stayed at home without going to school. At that time, one of my groupmates who was also my cousin made me pregnant. I was so afraid to tell my mother what had happened. I used to hide by wearing bulky jumpers. Within a few months, I started experiencing morning sickness. Before my parents discovered that I was pregnant, I disappeared and went to the streets. On the street, life was difficult. When the time came to deliver my baby, I went to the hospital. Two days after delivery, I left the child in the hospital and escaped.

Testimony 2: Claude from Cameroun. Suffered torture in Libya when he had to escape his country and went to find refuge in Europe. "When we were in Libya, we were not considered as human beings. Teenagers would threaten us with guns, and our lives were sold for money. I've seen many people die. Since that day, I thank God every morning that I am still alive. For Him, I remain someone".

Testimony 3: Stephane, homeless man in France. The most suffering aspect when you live in the streets is that people don't cross your outlook. Here in the subway, they are all running, and they pass by us as we are just advertising panels. They see us without seeing us."

*Let's take some time to reflect on the voices that are mute in religious communities, in our neighborhood, in our ministries, in our countries, and in the world...*

We can take a moment listening to this song, wishing to all those people a deep peace: [Deep Peace](#) – Ashana

“Transformation surpasses human efforts. “We have come to know that transformation is not the same as change. The strategies of change come from our own initiative, while transformation is always the fruit of an Encounter.”

It is “the Spirit dwelling within us [that] gradually transform us, enabling us through His power to remove whatever hinders [the Spirit’s] action.” (Artisans of Hope, pg. 11)

***What responses do the forgotten voices call us to do?***

Song: *Who will speak if you don't?* by Marty Haugen



14 “Because he loves me,” says the Lord, “I will rescue him;  
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

15 He will call on me, and I will answer him;  
I will be with him in trouble,  
I will deliver him and honor him.

16 With long life I will satisfy him  
and show him my salvation.”

Ps. 91:14-16

Lord, we entrust you all the forgotten voices and pray for encounters that may break their loneliness...

***Oh Lord, make us artisans of hope in our broken and blessed world.***

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