

Fearful prayer of a high-rise developer

by [Steven Peterson](#) in the [September 22, 2021](#) issue

Luke 16:19-31

Dear Lord, my latest high-rise plan is this:
fabulous views, a Starbucks down the block,
security with cameras you can't miss,
and rooftop tracks where dogs can take a walk.
I'm filling up my neighborhood with these
apartment towers built for city life
(just keep us separate from the homeless, please,
who beg along our street, upset my wife,
and interrupt a pleasant shopping trip).

Some nights I fear the flames where I'll be flung.
That beggar—will he dip a fingertip
in water so it cools my burning tongue?
It's night. I look down at the street and see
my beggar looking up and straight at me.