

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.