

Special Needs Mass
October 6, 2019

It is a very intense story in the Gospel today, isn't it? A very powerful image of the rich man stuck on one side of the void and Lazarus there with Jesus on the other side. It is a striking thing to think about, but there are some very important messages to take with us from the Gospel.

The first is that Jesus looks out for those in need. Lazarus struggled with poverty; that was his burden. Everyone here has our own burdens that we carry and that we struggle with. Some of you, dear brothers and sisters, have crosses that are heavier than most. You live your days with needs that many people cannot even understand. But that means you are loved by Jesus in a special way. Just like he drew near to Lazarus and walked with him to new life, he is close to you and going with you along your path in life. He wants to be near you and bring you along with him. This is a beautiful blessing and we thank God for it.

But we also have the warning of the rich man. He did not understand what a blessing he had in Lazarus. He had an opportunity to walk with his brother in Christ. He had an opportunity to serve someone in need. He had an opportunity to learn from Lazarus – because Lazarus saw the world differently from his perspective. The rich man denied himself all these blessings, because he did not recognize Lazarus for who he was, a beloved child of God and fellow brother. To all of you who care for our friends with special needs in life, you know what a blessing it can be. There are always difficulties when we walk the path of the Lord, but we can rejoice today in the blessing of our sisters and brothers.

May we give thanks to God for gathering us here together. May he guide us in his will, and may we be there for each other always. We belong to him who has risen from the dead, and he will always be with us, bringing us with him to newness of life.