

Thursday, Second Week of Lent

Luke 16:19-31

REFLECTION

The parables Jesus tells are intended to make us think and reflect.

Today Jesus tells the story about two individual beings.

If I were to ask, who is the needy one, most of us would quickly say, of course it is Lazarus who is.

We rightly see him that way in the light of the story.

Yet, when stories of two individuals are presented to us, it can sometimes be difficult to know who is the needy one.

In reality, however in the story that Jesus tells us today it is the rich man who was in greater need.

It was in responding to Lazarus that the rich man would have made it to Abraham's bosom.

So, he needed Lazarus for his salvation, but Lazarus did not need the rich man for his salvation.

Lazarus was assured of salvation, whereas the rich man's path to salvation was through Lazarus.

Even though Lazarus was in great misery his ultimate future was secure.

Even though the rich man had a good fortune, his ultimate future was anything but secure.

The first point worth reflecting at is that when someone who appears to be in much greater need than me crosses my path, I may be the really needy one and that person may be my path to God.

It is likely that the rich man in the parable had many friends who shared his heavily laden table while Lazarus seems to have had no friends. However, when he died it was revealed that he had some wonderful friends after all, the angels who carried him to Abraham's side at the banquet of life. God had always been his friend.

The second point worth reflecting at is that maybe there is someone who needs to know that they have some wonderful friends or someone who needs to know that God has always been their friend.