
HOMILY SUNDAY XXVI ORDINARY TIME YEAR C
YOU RECEIVED GOOD THINGS, BUT LAZARUS RECEIVED EVIL

Brothers and sisters... All of us, in one way or another, have experienced what it means to have a lot or to have very little...

We have known moments of **abundance and moments of need**... And we also know that in those situations, the heart can become grateful or it can close...

Today's Gospel puts us in front of a mirror... **two men, two lives**, one door separating them...

Every Sunday the Lord gives us His Word as a light to examine our lives... And today He speaks to us of a strong contrast...

A man who had everything and another who had nothing... And this parable is not a story from long ago... **It is the story of our society, even of our own hearts**...

Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven... With these words, Jesus opened the heart of the Gospel to us...

And today, even though these words are not exactly in the proclaimed Gospel, **they invite us to ask ourselves**... Which side of the parable am I on today? What am I doing with what God has given me?

I would like to begin by inviting you to give thanks...

Let us thank God **for life, health, family, friends, and the opportunities we have received, even those we sometimes do not fully appreciate**...

Everything we have, **both material and spiritual, is a gift**... And a heart that gives thanks is a heart that stays open to God and to others... **to stay open to God and to others... Prayer, contemplation, and action**...

I pray for what I feel I need... **I contemplate** how God works for my good and **I act** according to His perfect plan of love... **to serve and to share**...

My dear friends... The parable of the rich man and poor Lazarus **shows humanity in its most cruel reality**...

These men lived door to door, they saw each other every day... **Yet, how different were their destinies!** The rich man dressed in luxury and feasted every day, while Lazarus lay at his door, sick, hungry, invisible... **The hardest thing for Lazarus was not only the lack of bread, but the lack of humanity...** to live as if he did not exist, to go unnoticed, to count for nothing...

And Jesus shows us how, in eternity, things are reversed... Lazarus is comforted in Abraham's bosom, and the rich man suffers in Hades...

Not because being rich is a sin, but because he used his wealth wrongly...

This man lived only for himself; he closed the door of his heart and of his house... He was not condemned for a great crime...

But for something more terrible... **indifference... The inability to see in his neighbor a brother...**

My dear brothers and sisters, this parable is not a story of the past... Today there are also many Lazarus waiting at our doors... **Yes! there are those who lack the necessities of life... But there are also new forms of poverty that hurt...**

Spiritual poverty... of those who have lost faith or the sense of life...

Emotional poverty... of those who live surrounded by people but feel alone...

Moral poverty... of those who cannot tell good from evil...

The poverty of hope... of those who no longer find joy to rise each day...

This is no longer just about money... this is about the depth of being human... **Humanity!**

And each one of these kinds of poverty should challenge us... **The greatest harm we can do to our soul is to close ourselves in selfishness and live as if these forms of poverty do not exist...**

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St. Paul, in the second reading, gives us the key... **Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness... In other words, live with a heart that gives, that does not accumulate for yourself, but shares... live as if your life were a Eucharist!**

Because at the end of life, we will not be asked how much we had, **but how much we shared...**

And I think that this beautiful coincidence that we have this weekend as a parish community is the greatest testimony that we have of a God who always wants the best for us... This special Sunday, **we cannot forget St. Michael the Archangel...** He is the great defender of God's people, the one who fights against evil and protects the Church...

He reminds us that our Christian life is **a battle... against selfishness, against indifference, against sin that traps us...**

But we do not fight alone... St. Michael is with us; **God Himself fights at our side...**

My dear friends... Let us ask the Lord today to give us a grateful and generous heart, to help us open the door of our lives to every Lazarus who needs us...

Let us not allow indifference to harden our soul... And under the protection of St. Michael the Archangel, let us walk confidently toward the Father's house, **where everything will be different, everything will be new, and everything will be infinitely better.**

Fr. Moices Rafael Caballero.