

# Lenten Reflection

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We are already into the beginning of the third week of Lent. How were those past two weeks different from those before them?

Lent is a very important time in our Liturgical Year. It prepares us for the Triduum which is the heart of our faith.

Jesus helps me to open my eyes through this parable. He shows me how I could be the rich man or I could also be the poor man.

The Gospel tells us that “there was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day.” This man seems to be totally oblivious of his whereabouts. He apparently did not even notice that a poor man is at his doorstep.

Am I aware of my surroundings very often? If not, why not? I often am in too much of a hurry, or I have better things to do, or my mind is too occupied about MY wants or desires, my looks or even my needs rather than noticing the persons around me and their needs.

And then we meet Lazarus – a poor man covered with sores who would have gladly eaten his fill of even the scraps that fell from the rich man’s table.

I am that “poor man.” I do not lack any food necessities, on the contrary, I have abundance of food and, even then, complain about the good food provided for us, or it may not be to my liking, or I would just want to have something new or different once in a while.

When Lazarus, “the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham.” I believe that Lazarus was rewarded in his death, because he accepted his circumstances without complaint or anger about his life. I need to carefully assess my own possibility of being carried by angels to my eternal destination...my own response to my life before my death. Will I be carried away by the angels to my last destination or heavenly reward?

When the rich man died and was found in the netherworld, where he was in torment, he “cried out, Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue.” And he is told that it is too late for the rich man and that his brothers have to respond to their own lives. I too have to answer to my choices and pray that they will be good ones. I cannot depend on others to be my safety net. No one else can do it for me. Besides, Jesus said clearly, that even if one raises from the dead, some will not listen.

We know that Jesus has risen from the dead. There is no excuse for me!