

Liturgy of the Word with Children
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
29 September, 2019
Luke 16:19-31

Catechist Background

In antiquity (and sometimes even today, if we are honest with ourselves), people looked on the wealthy as favoured by God. If God had allowed them to be blessed with good things, surely they must have deserved it! Of course, at the other end of this belief is that the poor are somehow less deserving of God's blessing through their own laziness or ineptitude. Today's gospel firmly challenges both of those assumptions. The rich man may have been a model citizen in other ways; his real crime seems to have been the fact that his eyes were closed to the suffering around him, and did nothing to alleviate it. In a sense, Jesus' message today is not a new one. Today's first reading (Amos 6:1, 4-7) attests to the idea that being well-off is not a sign that one should view themselves as superior to others. The concept was lost on today's rich man. Even in death the rich man sees Lazarus as his errand boy, unaware (or unbelieving) that his previous prestige is gone.

We Say Sorry

Leader: Lord Jesus, you welcome everybody, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You teach us to do the same, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Your love extends to the smallest, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

God, fill us with your love and forgiveness so we can share in your joy. Amen.

Gospel Intro

Remind the children that last week's gospel was about the right use of money. This week we will hear about someone who did *not* use his money wisely.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- When they were alive, do you think other people thought that God loved the rich man, with all his fine clothes and nice house? Do you think they would have thought that God loved Lazarus, with dogs licking his sores?
- When the two men died, what happened to them?
- What did the rich man ask for his family? What did Abraham say?
- Who *has* risen from the dead?

Response

Ask the children to pretend to take out their 'normal eyes' and to put in 'new eyes,' that will help them see the world as Jesus sees it. Invite them to look around the room at each other and try to practise seeing with 'Jesus' eyes' for a few moments. As the rich man left his gate, ask them to think about things they will see when they leave the church today, on the way back to their homes and at home. Have them think about places they are likely to go and people they are likely to see during the week ahead. How would Jesus see these?

Around a large piece of paper in the middle of the room, ask for suggestions of how we can notice the needs around us. Invite children to draw/write how they will respond if they see a particular need (someone alone on the playground, a parent with a headache, a sibling feeling upset).

We Believe

Relating to the Creed what you have shared with the children, ask this series of questions and invite the children to reply, 'I do.'

- Do you believe in God the Father almighty who created us to love?
- Do you believe in Jesus the Son who teaches us how to treat one another?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who guides us in serving others?

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'We know the world we live in has needs and so we now pray...'

Leader: We pray for leaders in our Church responding to people in need. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for people who hold powerful positions in our world, like the rich man we heard about today. May they use their wealth for good. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for people who are homeless, like Lazarus. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for anyone in our parish community who is ill or anxious about something. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, help us to see the needs of the people around us, and how we can help others when we can. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

