

March 16, 2017

Luke 16:19-31

The image of the rich man and the poor man helps us reflect on the words of Jesus this Lenten season. (The first shall be last and the last shall be first.) And that can be a big challenge in our world today.

As Christians, we need to imagine ourselves as both the rich person and the poor person. We might have to stretch our creativity on how to accomplish this. We must get a good perspective on how these differences can be a positive encounter for each other and keep us from being judgmental.

Our main challenge is to be able imagine the possibilities when we can put ourselves into others' suffering. Our imagination could create for us an image of heaven and the netherworld and what it might look like—a place of comfort or a place of torment. It gives us a chance to imagine what we can do with the opportunities we have now, while we are still on earth and still have a choice.

The time will come when we can't change things. This dimension of space where we go is a place when we reach it, and there is no turning back.

As we look at the choices we make this Lenten season. Does our success separate us and create a large gap between ourselves and the marginalized? The rich man in today's Gospel separates himself by gating off his home. He then fails to reach out and recognize Lazarus in his time of need.

As followers of Jesus Christ, who calls us to love our neighbor, we have to do something—no matter how small—to alleviate the suffering of our neighbor.

**Reflection questions:**

What separates us from encountering someone still struggling with life's injustices?

Do we reach a point in our life where we don't have time get involved?

*Reflection by Deacon Tom Kubik, Holy Name Parish.*