

Daily Homily
Second Week in Lent, Thursday
St. Casimir, Optional Memorial
4 March 2021
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The word that jumps out at me in this Gospel is the word “persuade.”

“If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be **persuaded** if someone should rise from the dead.”

What persuaded this rich man, who remains unnamed in this parable, to be the way that he was? He was negligent, unaware, uncaring, unsympathetic, and apathetic. We know the poor man’s name, Lazarus. This rich man simply stepped over Lazarus as he lay on his front step. What persuaded the rich man to act in such a way? Maybe he was too wrapped up in this world... when he died and was in the netherworld that’s when he notices Lazarus, but by then, it was too late. Maybe he was too wrapped up in his own affairs and his own thing. Maybe he was too persuaded by his financial consumption and gain, too stingy, to share and give.

This parable acts as a great examination of conscience for us. What or who persuades you to be who you are – at your best and at your worst? What or who persuades you to pray, to keep faith, to forgive, to love? Or, go ahead, step into the rich man’s shoes, what or who can persuade you to be the opposite of him ... more aware and more concerned about other’s needs?

Who or what persuades you to be more in line with Jesus? Today, choose someone in your life, at your doorstep even, under your roof perhaps, and ask yourself – what do they need? Then, before it’s too late, be persuaded by Lazarus and the rich man to reach out and provide.