

Today's gospel is the story of Lazarus, not the one who was a friend of Jesus and whom Jesus raised from the dead, but another Lazarus, the friend of God who begged without reward at the door of the rich man.

We see their respective fates: Lazarus rests in the bosom of Abraham and the rich man is tormented in the netherworld and wants to warn his brothers of their fate. The gospel ends with: "Will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead?"

What does the resurrection mean for us? Does it start in the afterlife, or does it start today? And if it starts today how does this story challenge us?

Rising from the dead happens every time we see the suffering of another and respond to it. It seems that the rich man did not really see the suffering Lazarus. Rising from the dead happened this week as we purchased food for the food bank. It happens when we pray for those in need and offer words of compassion, sympathy, affirmation, encouragement. As a community of faith we help each other to wake up and respond to the needs of those around us.

This week be attentive to those in need...discover ways to respond.

Today, let us pray that we be a resurrection people now - doing for others what Jesus has done for us.