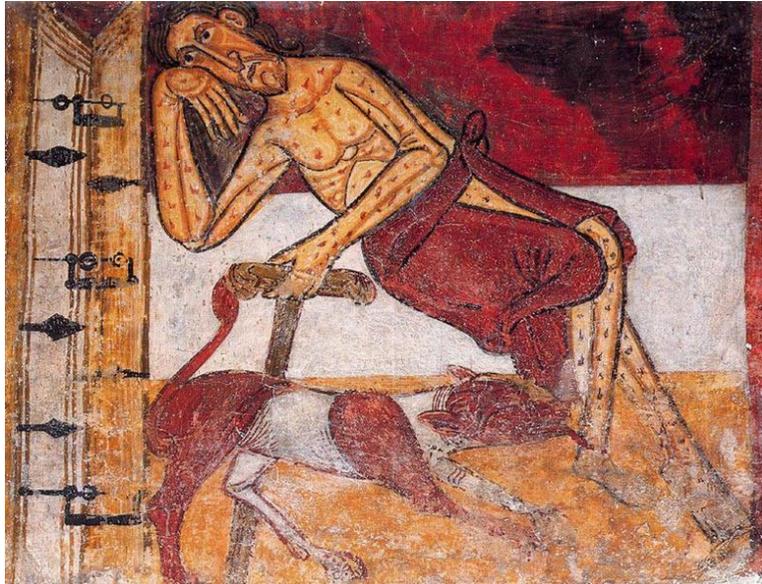


Maranatha Mirror Short

HOW COME LAZARUS NEVER COMES TO CHURCH



"There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Laz'arus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores."

The rich man never misses church.

He is a faithful member, highly respected.

He supports the religious agenda.

What about Lazarus? How come Lazarus never comes to church?

Lazarus is too busy trying to survive.

Besides, the rich man knows that Lazarus wouldn't be interested.

The rich man knows that Lazarus would never fit in.

Maybe Lazarus would be more comfortable in the storefront mission over on 3rd Street.

The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom.

Wait a minute! Lazarus never got saved! He never prayed the sinner's prayer

All Lazarus has to offer God is suffering.

And he ends up in Paradise?

“The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Laz'arus in his bosom. And he called out, `Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Laz'arus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.’”

Luke 16:19-24



If you want to know Jesus, pay attention to Lazarus.

If Lazarus turns you off, pay attention to the rich man.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to the Lazarus's at our doors. Give us the compassion, empathy and vision to see their wounded lives, as you see them. Give us the hands, feet and listening ears to relieve some of their suffering, even if what we can do is so little. And compassionate Saviour, prevent us from shunning them because of their tormented lives, or from using them as projects to earn merits for ourselves. Instead, with heavenly insight, may we see that they are dearly beloved by you, saved by you alone, and that you will tend to all their wounds as you lovingly hold them in your bosom.

*Lazarus waiting at the door of Dives, roman fresco at Saint Climent de Taüll church, now at Barcelona Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya
Brooklyn Museum - The Bad Rich Man in Hell (Le mauvais riche dans l'Enfer) - James Tissot*



THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN