

LAZARUS IS A HOLY PAIN!



“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores.”

Why does Lazarus have to plunk himself down at my gate?

Why do I have to look out my window and see that miserable creature day after day?

Why doesn't Lazarus go away?

That annoying phone call.

That needy soul who never leaves me alone.

Day after day it's the same sad story.

Why do they keep pestering me and wasting my time? Why?



Is Lazarus a pest, sent by the devil to spoil my day?

Or is Lazarus put there by God to wake me up?

Lazarus may be a pain, but....

.... Lazarus is a “holy pain”.

So we treat them with *honor*.

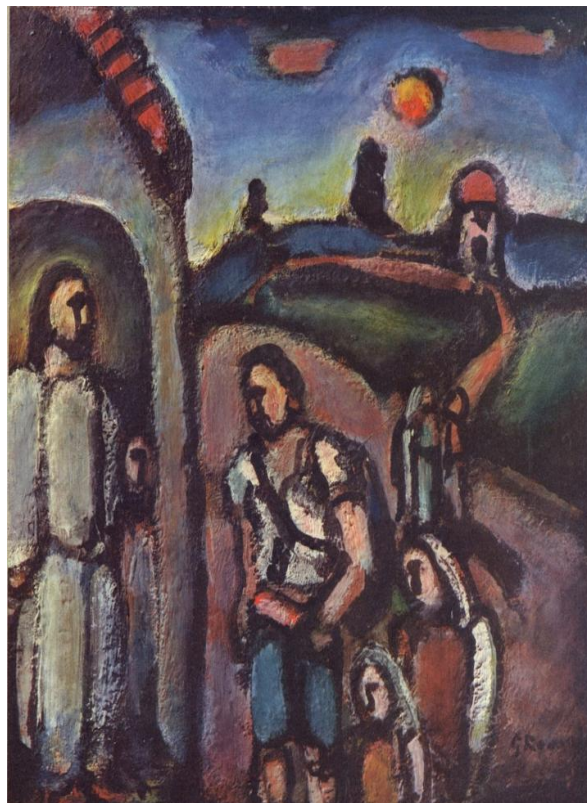
Lazarus is not a pesky mosquito...

...Lazarus is a living soul!

We treat them with *patience*, a lesson God has been trying to teach us for a long time.

We approach them with *wisdom*. “*Lord show us when to be gracious, encouraging and generous, and when to shut down the conversation.*”

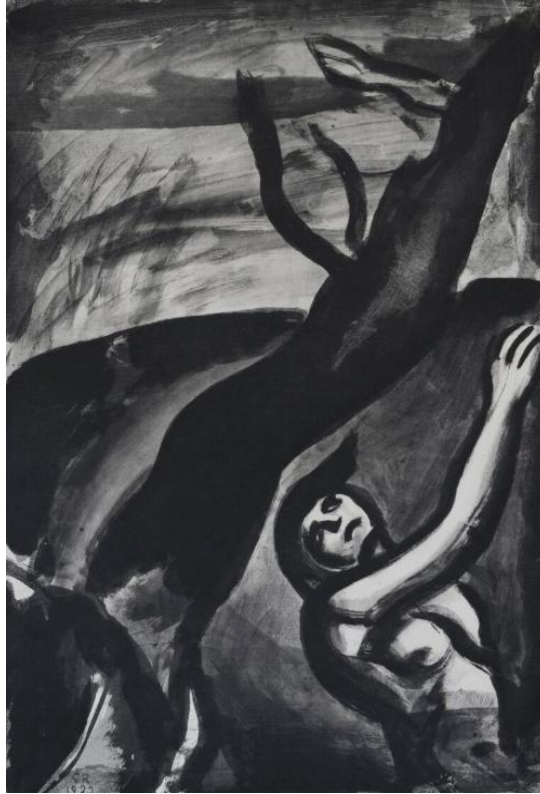
Lord Jesus may your *love* find its way through me to Lazarus!



***“The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’*”**

But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.'

Luke 16



Lord, have mercy!

Prayer: Yes Lord, have mercy with us, help us to see each Lazarus in our lives not as a pain, but a holy pain, a holy call. Use them to convict us of our pride, to draw us closer to your merciful, kind heart, and as a means to join with them in your healing power. Help us to see the needy, the lonely, the unstable, the difficult ones as beautiful living souls. Give us the patience and wisdom to treat them with the honor they deserve. Replace any annoyance and exasperation for them with sweet love and deep compassion so that we may tenderly care for their needs with grateful instead of bitter, judging hearts. Amen.

Message: Richard E. Bieber March 2021

Featured Artist: Georges Rouault (1871-1958) France

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THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN

