

10 May 2020 - Homily

Jn 14:1-12

By: Fr. Paul Magyar

People before Jesus' ministry time, during and after His ministry time always wondered what will happen to our soul when we pass away. According to the Hebraic tradition it was believed that when a person passes away their soul hovers around the body for the next three days and only on the fourth day does the soul venture into the afterlife of Sheol. Only God has the power to bring back a soul from Sheol into the present life. This is why Jesus arrives to Bethany on the fourth day to raise Lazarus from the dead. To show the people that He is more than just a prophet or a wandering miracle worker, that He is the son of God and God himself by bringing Lazarus' soul back from Sheol.

In the gospel of John, Jesus tells his disciples that there are many rooms in His Father's house. Jesus gives the description of heaven as being a large house with a large property. We can image ourselves walking into God's house and walking down the large hallway. As we are walking we can then hear the sounds of celebrations. We walk towards the sounds of celebrations and peer into the dining hall. We then see according to catholic tradition the heavenly banquet. A long table with Christ sitting at the head of the table and many people sitting by the table. People we know and love who have passed away before us and we are happy to see them. However there also other people sitting at the table, people we do not like, people we have never forgiven or feel they have never forgiven us. Now we are wondering why are they sitting there? They are sitting there because Christ has forgiven them and want's to celebrate with them.

We are standing in the hallway of God's house. However we feel we cannot sit down behind the table because we notice that the empty seat for us is beside a person we do not like and have trouble forgiving. This feeling is the condition of Purgatory. Christ notices us and comes up to us for a conversation. This is called particular judgement which is unavoidable. Christ gives us an opportunity, which is grace, to come outside and work in his vineyard. Let the warmth of the sun thaw away all the icy cold parts of your heart that prevent you from forgiving. Work in the vineyard as long as You feel you need to. Then come back inside God's house and sit down behind his table.

Praying for all of you

Fr. Paul Magyar