

Children's Sermon for Sept. 29 (based on Luke 16:19-31)

Items needed: teddy bear or doll, picture or figurine of a bird.

Show kids teddy bear/doll, and ask them if they have/had a teddy or doll, that was special to them. Ask them what name they had for their special teddy or doll. While showing them the bird picture/figurine, explain that, when we see a bird outside, we don't have a name for it--we just call it a bird. We give names to the ones that are special to us, and we don't give names to what doesn't matter that much to us, like the bird we see outside. In today's Bible reading, Jesus tells a story about two people. One of the people has a LOT of money. The other person has no money. The one with a LOT of money, Jesus does NOT give a name to that person. But the person who has no money, Jesus does give a name to that person. He is named Lazarus, which means, "God helps." Usually, it's people with money who get treated like they're important, by other people. Jesus's story, where the poor person has a name, but the rich person doesn't, that is Jesus' way of helping us see that people with no money are special to God, just like your teddy/doll is special to you. God has a special place in God's heart for people with no money, and God wants us to show special love for those people, too.

By Rev. Dave Quinn