

Sunday April 26, 2020

Acts 3:110

Christ is Risen

Children's Message

In this morning's reading, Peter heals a man who cannot walk with the name of Jesus. Peter wanted to make this man healthy again and to give him back his dignity as a child of God. Remember that when we do anything it should be done from our hearts with love and prayer. These two things make everything better and stronger.

I'll share a story with you that have stayed with me for twenty years. One spring I went to a clergy conference in Toronto. In my spare time I drifted to Yonge St. It was there that I watched a man sitting on a piece of cardboard begging on a busy sidewalk. There were many people walking past him. Some were giving him money and others just ignored him. As I was watching him a man in a business suit put four quarters in his hat and patted on the head. The beggar stood up and cursed the man in the business suit. Then the beggar reached into his hat and threw the four quarters at him. This beggar was wild with intense anger. This was something to watch and I tried to understand it better as time went on.

The business man gave the beggar a dollar and treated him like an animal. The gesture of petting the beggar on the head like a dog reduced his humanity to that of an animal. This was what upset the beggar and made him so angry. The business man's intention was not good or loving, but very demeaning. For a mere dollar he tried to take the beggar's dignity away. The beggar was not going to have that. This is why he cursed him and threw the dollar back at him.

I hope that the beggar taught the business man a lesson that day. I took away many lessons from watching this beggar. We all have dignity regardless of what our situation may be. I had a lot of respect for the beggar that day that was dressed poorly. I had very little for the well-dressed business man. It should not matter what people look like or how they dress, we should always treat them with respect. When we treat people with respect it reveals the intention in our hearts. This message is what I want you to learn and carry with you as you grow and as a Christian.