

LUKE Lesson 44

The Rich Man and Lazarus; (Chapter 16:19-31)

05 April 2019

This passage deals with life beyond the grave. One thing is certain; death does not end a person's existence. You will continue either in the bliss of Heaven or in the torments of Hell for eternity. Hell is a real place of fire (Mark 9:43-47) and torment (Luke 16:24, Rev 20:10). New bibles and modern day commentators try to soften the terrible reality of Hell by using Hebrew and Greek terms (Sheol, Hades, Gehenna, Tartarus), and saying that Hell means the grave or the city dump, etc. Jesus gave us an actual account of a rich man who went to Hell and was tormented in flames.

This story is not a parable; it doesn't contain the necessary and customary features of a parable:

- Introductory words: "*he spake a parable unto them, saying...*" (Mt 13:33, Lk 5:36, 6:39, 8:4, 12:16, 13:6, 18:1, 19:11, 21:29).
- Meaning or significance of each item listed. (i.e. "this is like unto this," "the field is..." "the tares are...").
- A lesson learned through allegory or symbolism.

Moreover, it contains details that would not be necessary if it were a parable:

- Lazarus is named. Parables may mention "a man" or "a woman," but names are not necessary.
- The rich man had a desire to prevent his five 5 brothers from the same fate (if Hell is the grave, that's a fate that cannot be prevented).

A rich man (compassionately not named) went to Hell, not because he was rich and not for any specific sin. He went to Hell because he's a sinner (as all men are) who rejected the salvation provided for him by God.

19-22 This story concludes Jesus' lesson on money. The crucial point He is trying to teach us is that everybody dies, rich or poor, so you'd better concentrate your efforts on making sure you're ready for death, rather than on getting more money in this temporal world.

- Rich men die and go to Hell just like anybody else who shuns God's salvation. The rich man's money couldn't buy him salvation, and it won't help his brothers miss Hell either (**see Psalm 49:6-19**).
- You will leave your wealth to others. Have you secured your soul in Heaven through Faith in Christ? Don't live your life for the temporary. Make sure Hell will never be a threat to you.
- Notice (vs 22) entrance into Hell occurs immediately after death just as entrance into the presence of the Lord is without delay for the saved person (2 Cor 5:8). The rich man's body was in the grave, but his soul was instantly transported to the torments of hellfire.

23-24 He saw Lazarus. This reveals that a person who enters Hell retains all their memories. This will bring the additional torment of regret to that person as they remember every sin committed, realize their guilt, and recall every time they rejected Jesus Christ, knowing that now they have no more chances to change their mind.

Vs 25 Abraham addresses the rich man as “**son.**” —He was a descendant of Abraham with a special covenant relationship to God, and yet he ended up in Hell. This shows us that a person’s background (lineage, nationality, connections, etc.) do not protect them from Hell. (John 1:11-13).

“**Son, remember...**” remembering will be part of the curse of Hell; remembering how you lived for the world instead of living for God.

The wording “**thou...receivedst thy good things**” implies that the rich man’s neglect may have been responsible for Lazarus receiving “**evil things**” in his lifetime. His treatment of Lazarus wasn’t the cause of his entering into Hell, but it revealed what kind of man he was. How we treat others manifests our true nature. He cared more about his riches than he did about people.

Observe Abraham’s lack of sympathy for the rich man. He understands God’s justice. The Bible calls him “The friend of God.” (2 Chron. 20:7, James 2:23). Men often view God’s judgment as cruelty. One day we’ll get a resurrection body and we’ll understand God’s holiness more fully. With the mind of Christ, we’ll not grieve any loved one who rejected Christ and didn’t make it to Heaven.

Vs 26 Your fate is sealed after death. You can’t go back to earth and you cannot pass from Hell to Heaven.

- This reveals that those who claim to have gone to Heaven or Hell and “come back” are either lying or have been deceived into believing it. It also exposes the occult practice of necromancy (pretending to communicate with the dead by means of a séance) as being impossible.
 - Evil spirits are gathering information about you and your family for the purpose of deceiving you. During the séance, evil spirits are the ones who reveal “secrets” that only your departed loved one could know.
 - Their aim is to make you believe God loves every sinner; to make you comfortable in your sin so you end up in Hell.
 - Those who died and were raised back to life never spoke about their experience in Heaven or Hell.
 - Widow of Nain’s son (Luke 7:15)
 - Tabitha, called Dorcas (Acts 9:40)
 - Lazarus (John 11:44)
 - Eutychus (Acts 20:10)
 - A man in Christ (2 Cor 12:4). He was forbidden to tell what was spoken in Paradise.
 - Many false doctrines come from evil spirits manipulating people into believing a “report from beyond.”
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27-31 Abraham said, “**They have Moses and the Prophets.**” The Bible is your final authority if you want the truth (Jn 17:17). Everything you hear about or experience must be weighed against the word of God. The word of God says Hell is real and Hell is permanent. Preachers need to open their mouths and warn people without hesitation or reservation.

- Notice that salvation can be found in Moses and the Prophets (The Old Testament).
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