

“You Don’t Have To Go”

Pharisees were ahead of their time

- In last days ... '*lovers of money*' (2 Tim.3:2)
- Pharisees already held this title (Lk.16:14)
 - They need a warning (16:19...)
- Two scenes in Luke 16 –
 - On earth (19-22)
 - In Hades (23-31)

I. Luke 16

19: The showoff.

- In love with himself
- Some thought riches implied God's favor
- Fared sumptuously: feasted
 - Lk.12:19, eat, drink, be merry
 - Lk.15:23-24, prodigal's return
 - Lk.16, rich man partied every day

20: The beggar.

- Lazarus (Eleazar)
- Lazarus never complains
- Lying at rich man's gate – could not miss him going in or out

21: cold indifference: his response is no response (neglect)

- Outdone by dogs

22a: blessed death –

- Negative: no more pain
- Positive: angels ... to Abraham's bosom

22b: rich die too. Hb.9:27

- His death, a curse
- Was Lazarus buried?
- Rich man's wealth failed him...
 - Money cannot buy . . .

23: “Being in torments in Hades...”

- Hades is not hell. Ac.2:27, 31
- Rich man could see Abraham from afar, and Lazarus in his bosom...
 - Mt.8:11 . . . And I say to you that many will come from the east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.
 - Jn.13:23, Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.

24: Father Abraham (?)

- *Physically* related to Abraham
- *Spiritually* unrelated
 - Jn.8:56, Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.
- Rich man begs Abraham . . . and Lazarus

Safe to assume he was aware
of Lazarus' misery at his gate

- The merciless desires mercy
- Died, but fully conscious and aware

25: “Son”?? (15:31)

- Lk.3:8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.
- Remember
- Rich man / Lazarus – the great contrast
- “Received your good things” (as Abraham)
- Tormented: suffer pain, distressed

26: The great gulf (lit., 'a yawning'): unbridgeable space between Abraham and the place of torture – BDAG

- Showed no pity; receives no pity
- Gave crumbs; denied drops
- Greatest role reversals
 - Lazarus: unbroken joy
 - Rich man: unbroken suffering
- Refutes universalism / purgatory / annihilation / soul sleep

27: Torment includes more than “this flame”

- Deep-rooted selfishness remains – concerned only for earthly brothers
- He asks no salvation for anyone else
- He now believes warnings are good

28: Rich man plays victim card

- If God were not so indifferent... (even in torment, he faults God)
- But Jesus appeared only to His disciples
- Rich man did not use light he had

29: They have Moses and the prophets

- God DID make abundant provision for his brothers' salvation
 - We have Jesus and apostles
- Emphasis: power of God's word [*Let them hear them*]
- “Hear” is inclusive. Ac.13:27
- Mt.17:5 . . . “this is My beloved Son... hear Him”

30: Charge: *if God had done this for me...*

- Rich man contradicts Abraham; has no faith in Word of God
- Fact: we're saved by faithful hearing, NOT by seeing a ghost
 - Saul: Samuel at Endor, 1 Sm.28
 - Jews demanded a sign: Mt.12:38
 - Many Jews: Jn.12:10
- “Repent” – rich man knows the word!
- Readers receive what is denied his brothers

31: Stubbornness pays . . . and pays . . .

- Ro.6:23
- A sign would not compel faith or force obedience

I. Luke 16

II. Lessons

1. Rich man is not named.

- His name is not written in heaven –
Lk.10:20

2. Lord's warning continues His discussion with Pharisees

- Lk.16:14-17
- Their views of wealth and life are opposed to God's
- Here *is* a message from the dead

3. Rich man is not charged with some 'extreme' sin

- He simply lived for himself
- Sin is selfishness

Self·Ish·Ness

4. Extreme luxury does not last

- Even if it did, we will not
- Rich man never learned deferred gratification – ability to postpone immediate pleasure to work hard for an enhanced return at future date

5. Nothing in life equals the importance of our soul and eternity

- This world and its distractions hinder our desire for heaven
- The world measures people by how much they get; God, by how much they give

6. There is no cure for those who will not hear the Word

- Some are unmoved even as they are dying
– as the rich man

7. Greatest waste on earth is wasted opportunities

- Rich man knew about repentance, but . . .
 - wasted time and opportunity
 - lived in luxury while neglecting his soul

8. As poor as he was, the beggar had true riches

- For Lazarus, death was a blessing
- Lk.23:43, “...Today, you will be with Me in Paradise”

9. Our eternity depends on choices we make on earth

- “If a man cannot be humane with the OT in his hand and Lazarus on his doorstep, nothing – neither a visitant from the other world or a revelation of the horrors of Hell – will teach him otherwise” – A. M. Hunter

Summary

- The rich die too, 19 [Mt.6:19-21]
- Few years of earthly riches cannot compensate for eternal misery, 19
- Lazarus: death was great blessing, 20-22
- Rich man's concern even in torment: for himself and his brothers, 25
- In torment, rich man continues selfish ways, 27
- Rich man now believes warnings are good, 27
- Our real need is scripture, not signs, 31