

Heaven or Hell

Do Blessings Now Point To Blessings Forever?

Text: Luke 16:19-31 NAS 2020

Introduction: Dear friends: Let's be honest, when a person *continues in **unrepentance***, he will end up in hell 😞.

Last Week: [Luke 16:1-15](#) – Jesus told a parable about an **unbelieving** man who was **unfaithful** in managing his boss's possessions. What are the purposes of that parable?

- For Believers: Jesus wants us to ▶ apply God's money management principles in our lives and ▶ use God's increase to extend His kingdom.
- For the Pharisees: Jesus wanted them to ▶ see their love for money and ▶ repent unto forgiveness ([16:14-15](#)).

In [Luke 16:16-18](#) – Jesus mentioned another sin of the Pharisees: *How they married and divorced wife after wife.*

Even though the Pharisees kept trying to justify their ▶ use of money and ▶ marriage practices, **God knew their hearts**, and, without repentance, they would enter a horrible eternity 😞!

Today: [Luke 16:19-31](#) – as we go through the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, let us understand that **RICHES NOW do not automatically equal A FAVORABLE ETERNAL LOCATION!**

1. **Unbelief and Heartless Selfishness:** ¹⁹ **“Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, enjoying himself in splendor every day. ²⁰ And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered**

with sores, ²¹ and longing to be fed from the *scraps* which fell from the rich man's table; not only *that*, the dogs also were coming and licking his sores.

- a. The Rich Man ♦wore the clothes of kings and nobles, ♦had a great abundance of what he needed, and ♦thoroughly enjoyed himself every day.
- b. The Poor Man was ♦beggary poor, ♦unable to walk, and ♦diseased. He was placed where the rich man and his friends would pass by, *hoping to receive some table scraps*. The rich man did nothing to help the poor man, but sore-licking dogs gave some comfort.

2. **Each Man Died Physically:** ²² **Now it happened that the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's arms** [*which is a Jewish designation for heaven*]; **and the rich man also died and was buried.** // In life the two men were *very different*: also in death:

- a. The Body of the Poor Man was probably placed into a potter's field – *for the poor and unknown*.
- b. The Body of the Rich Man was probably given ♦a *grand* funeral and ♦an *extravagant* burial.

3. **Each Man – In His Soul – was in a Very Different Location:**

- a. The Poor Man, ***who died with his trust in the Messiah***, was taken to a place of **comfort and peace**.
- b. The Rich Man, ***who died in unrepentance***, was taken to a place of **torment and chaos**.

4. **The Rich Man Begged for Relief:**

- a. The Request For Himself: ²³ **And in Hades [the rich man] raised his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his arms.** ²⁴ **And he**

cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus, so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.' // During his life, the rich man had the abundance *but showed no mercy to the poor man*. Now, the rich man is *seeking mercy from the poor man*.

- b. The Reply: ²⁵ But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set, so that those who want to go over from here to you will not be able, nor will *any people* cross over from there to us.' // Abraham spoke to the rich man:
- i. Remember: ✓Your abundance, ✓his misery, and ✓your **unwillingness** to help.
 - ii. Reality: Even though you can see us, ✦no one from here can come to you, ✦nor can anyone from your location come to us.
- c. The Request for His Brothers: ²⁷ And he said, 'Then I request of you, father, that you send [Lazarus, the poor man] to my father's house—²⁸ for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not come to this place of torment as well.' // The rich man finally understands the truth. **It's too late for him** – *no one gets a second chance*, but he wants his brothers to avoid his place of torment.
- d. The Answer for All the Living: ²⁹ But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; **let them hear them.**' // Let your brothers listen to the Law and the

Prophets, *in other words*, the OT Scriptures. Those Scriptures ♦identify our sins, ♦show our helplessness to save ourselves, and ♦point to the Messiah – the Lamb of God, who †takes away the sin of the world and †opens the one way to comfort and peace.

- e. The Final Plea: ³⁰ **But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’** // Amazing things tend to draw our attention, so it made sense to the rich man that *a dead person being made alive* could move his brothers to believe in Jesus.
- f. The Final Response: ³¹ **But he said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’”** // Abraham told the rich man: Miracles are amazing, *but they are not God’s chosen means to save*. **Instead**, “[God] chose to give us [spiritual] birth **through the word of truth...**” (James 1:18 NIV).

Conclusion: Do blessings now point to blessings forever? **No!** Instead, *such blessings can be deceptive!*

- Repentant ones to **heaven**; unrepentant ones to **hell**.
- God works repentance *by His Spirit through His word*.
- Let’s invite others *to get into God’s word today!*

Let Us Pray: Dear LORD, please keep us believing in Jesus, showing mercy to others, and helping them ★get into the Bible and ★benefit from the Bible!