

The Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31

We have a choice whether we will have God's heavenly reward or the fiery destruction of the wicked after death. Focus on these passages: Psalm 9:17- those who forget God. Daniel 12:2- everlasting punishment. Rev. 21:8- those doomed to the lake of fire. Rev. 14:11; 20:10- no rest in hell.

I. The People in the Story- vv. 19-21

- Man of wealth-v 19. "There was a certain rich man," Jesus said, "who was splendidly clothed and lived each day in mirth and luxury". Some have named the rich man "Dives" the Latin word meaning rich. Modern terms it would be "Mr. Money Bags" , "Mr. Big Shot". You would be referred to as "living on easy street" , living large, living high on the hog.
- Man of want-v 20. This poor man begged for crumbs from the rich man's table. He had no money for medicine; the dogs came and licked his sores.

II. The Particulars in the Story-vv. 22-26

- Heaven-vv. 22. "Finally the beggar died and was carried by the angels to be with Abraham in the place of the righteous dead. The rich man died and was buried" All will die-Heb. 9:27.
- Hell-v. 23. "And his soul went to hell. There, in torment, he saw Lazarus in the far distance with Abraham".
- Help-v. 24. The rich man cried out for water to cool his tongue from the heat of hell-fire. (See Mark 9:44).
- Helpless-v. 25. It was too late to change after death. There will be no second chance , no further opportunity to repent and be converted.

III. The Prayer in the Story-vv. 27-31

- Pain-vv. 27-28. The pain was great. The rich man wanted someone to warn his brothers not to go to this awful place(Rev. 20:10, 14:11).
- Prophets-v. 29. "But Abraham said, "The scriptures have warned them again and again. Your brothers can read them any time they want to".
- Proposal-v. 30. The rich man thought that if someone rose from the dead, his brothers would believe. But when Christ arose from the dead, they didn't believe it .
- Problem-v. 31. If the rich man's brothers didn't believe Moses, neither would they believe anyone else, even if that person rose from the dead.

Conclusion: You can choose to accept or reject God's plan of salvation. God sends no one to hell- they send themselves by refusing to accept God's pardon.