

ETERNAL NIGHTMARE

Topic: Hell Text: Luke 16:19-31

There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.' ²⁵ "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.' ²⁷ "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' ²⁹ "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.' ³⁰ "No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' ³¹ "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

I. WHAT DOES THIS PARABLE TEACH US?

RICHES REJECTED AS THE SIGN OF GOD'S BLESSING

Luke 16:19 (primary text)

II. WHAT DOES THIS PARABLE TEACH US ABOUT HELL?

"Hell is simply the place where the unbeliever is no longer bothered by God pestering Him with His love." Norman Geisler (Thoroughly Equipped DC 403, 42)

Romans 5:10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

1 Corinthians 11:30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.

Hebrews 10:31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge,
but fools^[a] despise wisdom and instruction.

Matthew 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.
Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Reinhold Neibuhr "We shouldn't concern ourselves too much with the furniture of
heaven or the temperature of hell." (Thoroughly Equipped DC 403, 47)

A. ONE CONTRAST: PLACE OF REUNION—HEAVEN; ALONE--HELL

Luke 16:22

B. HELL A PLACE OF CONSCIOUS _____

Luke 16:23-25 (primary text)

Revelation 20:10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning
sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented
day and night for ever and ever.

Matthew 13:49-50 This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and
separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace,
where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Revelation 14:11 And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be
no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who
receives the mark of its name."

C. PERMANENT SEPERATION

Luke 16:26 (primary text)

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This
will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his
powerful angels. ⁸ He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the
gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut
out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might

Matthew 25:41 Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are
cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

OBJECTIONS TO HELL

Bertrand Russell "I do not myself feel that any person who is really profoundly humane can believe in everlasting punishment."

Martin Gardner "Hell is the supreme disgrace of Christendom." (God Forsaken, Dinesh D'Souza, 225)

_____ to believe in hell:

Jesus taught the existence of hell.

The Bible teaches that there is a hell.

God's love demands a hell.

Human dignity demands a hell.

"There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done, and those to whom God says in the end, 'Thy will be done.'" C.S. Lewis

God's justice demands a hell.

God's sovereignty demands a hell.

The cross of Christ points to hell.

Revelation 21:8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

III. WHAT IS THE CALL TO ACTION?

_____ : PASSION FOR WORD BASED EVANGELISM

1 John 4:10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Luke 16:27-31 ²⁷ "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family,²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'²⁹ "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'³⁰ "No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'³¹ "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'

ACTION STEPS

Idea: Create a prayer list of the lost, begin praying for their salvation.

These people are not your projects, they are just people that you care about and you want the best for. And you will love them even if they never come to Christ.

Get some training in sharing the gospel. "Walk across the Room" on Saturday at 10 am. At church office.

Share the gospel when given the opportunities.

Pray whether you are called to move overseas and share the gospel.

Pray that your children will become missionaries overseas.

CONCLUSION: John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.

"Without Christ, life is as the twilight with dark night ahead; with Christ, it is the dawn of morning with the light and warmth of a full day ahead." --Philip Schaff