



# SUNDAY MORNING

## AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

**Title:** One Minute After You Die

**Passage:** Luke 16:19-31

**Speaker:** Pastor Dan Preston

**Introduction:** This morning, we're going to consider one of the most important questions anyone could ever ask: "What happens one minute after we die?" It's not a question we often dwell on, but it's one we all must face. The Bible is not silent on this subject—it speaks with clarity, authority, and urgency. Every heartbeat brings us one moment closer to eternity. We often live as though time is unlimited, but Scripture reminds us that death is certain, and what follows is even more significant. One minute after you die, everything changes—and God wants you to be ready.

*"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."*  
(Hebrews 9:27)

### I. Every Earthly Pleasure and Every Earthly Pain Comes to an End (Verses 19-22)

Death does not check your bank account before it comes. It does not check your calendar. It does not ask if you are ready.

*"Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;" (Job 14:5)*

For the Christian — You may be ignored now. You may feel unseen, unloved, or forgotten. But when you die in Christ, you will not take that journey alone. The moment your eyes close here, angels will usher you into the presence of God.



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For the unbeliever — You may be surrounded by comfort now, but one minute after you die, if you die without Christ, comfort will vanish, and torment will begin.

### **II. You Enter the Forever You Chose in Life (Verse 23-26)**

*“When people die, only their bodies go into the grave. At the funeral, it is merely the physical shell we see lying in the casket. The real person, the soul or spirit, has already departed to either a place of torment or a place of comfort, depending on the person’s spiritual condition.” – Charles Swindoll*

*“Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 5:6-8)*

At death, the body dies, but the soul and spirit continue to live on.

Lazarus was not left to make the journey alone—he was personally escorted by the angels into the glorious presence of God.

The rich man also died, but no angels carried him into God’s presence. A split second after he died, he woke up in a terrifying place called Hell.

### **III. Your Eternal Destiny Is Irreversibly Sealed (Verses 24-31)**

The moment we draw our final breath, our eternal destiny is fixed forever.

The choices we make before death determine our eternal path, and there is no changing course once the moment arrives.

Every soul will one day stand on one side of that great divide.

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus is not merely a story—it is a divine warning that the clock is ticking, and the choices we make in this fleeting life will echo into eternity.



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The time to choose is now; for one minute after we die, our destiny is sealed.

**Conclusion:** One minute after you die, you will be in one of two places. If you are in Christ, you will be in comfort—home, safe, welcomed, whole. If you are without Christ, you will be in torment—alone, without hope, without escape. There is no middle ground. If you were to die today, are you 100% sure that you would be in Heaven? Have you repented of your sin and placed your trust in Jesus Christ alone?

*“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)*

*“For the wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 6:23)*

Salvation is a gift — not something you earn, but something you receive.

*“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”  
(Romans 10:9)*

To believe in Christ is to trust Him—to rest your entire hope for Heaven on His death and resurrection.



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