

Stories

(The parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus)

11.7.21

“There is nothing that keeps wicked men at any one moment out of hell, but the mere pleasure of God.”

“[the Devil]... stands waiting for them, like greedy hungry lions that see their prey, and expect to have it...”

“Unconverted men walk over the pit of hell on a rotten covering.”

– **Jonathan Edwards, Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God**

Luke 16: Jesus said, “There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. ²⁰ At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. ²¹ As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man’s table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores.

²² “Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the heavenly banquet.^[e] The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and he went to the place of the dead.^[f] There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side.

²⁴ “The rich man shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.’

²⁵ “But Abraham said to him, ‘Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. ²⁶ And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.’

²⁷ "Then the rich man said, 'Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father's home. ²⁸ For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don't end up in this place of torment.'

²⁹ "But Abraham said, 'Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.'

³⁰ "The rich man replied, 'No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.'

³¹ "But Abraham said, 'If they won't listen to Moses and the prophets, they won't be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"

1. Eternity is a fact

"Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the heavenly banquet.^[e] The rich man also died and was buried,²³ and he went to the place of the dead.^l

2. Eternity does not discriminate

Jesus said, "There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. ²⁰ At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. ²¹ As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man's table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores

3. Eternity is.....eternity

Matthew 25: "And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life."

4. Eternity for many will be awful

Confusion

Some may have thought they were ending up in heaven

Many now will be surprised...

I want to see people do more than simply raise their hand when they come to Christ. Where are the totally changed lives?

Francis Chan

Memory

Suffering

Physical

Mark 9: If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It's better to enter eternal life with only one hand than to go into the unquenchable fires of hell^[i] with two hands.^[i] ⁴⁵ If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It's better to enter eternal life with only one foot than to be thrown into hell with two feet.^[k] ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out. It's better to enter the Kingdom of God with only one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ 'where the maggots never die and the fire never goes out

Emotional

²⁷ "Then the rich man said, 'Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father's home. ²⁸ For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don't end up in this place of torment.'

The absence of God

One phrase summarizes the horror of hell. "God isn't there."

Max Lucado

5. The choice for eternity is made now

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³¹ "But Abraham said, 'If they won't listen to Moses and the prophets, they won't be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Close:

How do we make the right choice for eternity?

Rom. 3:23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom. 5:8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners

"On the eve of the cross, Jesus made his decision. He would rather go to hell for you than go to heaven without you."

Max Lucado