

Make Christ Known Before It's Too Late

Luke 16:19-31

Introduction:

"First, God does not send people to hell. He simply honors their choice. Hell is the ultimate expression of God's high regard for the dignity of man. He has never forced us to choose Him, even when that means we would choose Hell."
- Max Lucado

I. It will be too late when the condition of their soul is revealed. (V. 19-21)

"Jesus taught that hell is real. Of at least 162 New Testament texts that speak of hell and the judgment of the lost, more than 70 were issued by Jesus Christ Himself."

A. The conditions that accuse a rebellious lifestyle.

There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: **Luke 16:19**

B. The contrast that accentuates a rebellious lifestyle.

And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, (V. 21) And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. **Luke 16:20**

(Guess who He had laying at the gate?)

II. It will be too late when the conclusion of their life comes to full revelation. (V. 22-25)

A. What the rich man realized about his life's quality.

And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; (V. 23) And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. (V. 24) And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. **Luke 16:22-24**

"Lazarus, the beggar, went to a feast and sat by the side of Abraham, the most revered of the Jewish leaders. The rich man went to an eternity of torment."
- Adrian Rogers

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? **Mark 8:36**

B. What the rich man remembered about his life's experience.

But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. **Luke 16:25**

"More likely, Lazarus was not buried at all but taken to the edge of the city and thrown on the dung heap of Gehenna, where the garbage of the city burned. By contrast, the rich man, with all of his wealth, probably had a magnificent funeral."
- David Jeremiah

God will do a true test of the heart***. And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.*** **Deuteronomy 8:2**

III. It will be too late when the condemnation of his soul is revealed. (V. 27-31)

"People do not get a second chance after death. Humans have one precious life— a wonderful stewardship bestowed by God."
- David Jeremiah

A. He realizes the terror that awaits a lost soul.

Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: (V. 28) For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. **Luke 16:27**

B. He recognizes the treasure of a witness to a rebellious heart.

Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. (V. 30) And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. (V. 31) And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead. **Luke 16:29-31**

(This scripture reveals man's thinking versus God's thinking.)