

Title: Whose Report Will You Believe? Text: Luke 16:19–31

Main Idea: Jesus, the one who has seen eternity and risen from the dead, calls us to trust His report about Heaven and Hell and to live by the truth of His Word.

1. Jesus Confirms the Reality of Heaven and Hell

- Jesus describes Heaven and Hell not as ideas but as real destinations.
- The rich man is in torment, Lazarus is comforted at Abraham's side.
- Abraham: "Between us and you a great chasm has been fixed."
- Jesus speaks with authority because He has *seen* what lies beyond.
- John 3:16–18 — belief in Jesus leads to eternal life; rejection leads to condemnation.

2. Jesus Confirms the Scriptures Are Sufficient

- Luke 16:29 — "They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them."
- God's Word gives every warning and instruction needed for salvation.
- Matthew 22:34–40 — Jesus summarizes the Law and the Prophets:
 - "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind."
 - "Love your neighbor as yourself."
- John 14:6 — "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." & Luke 9:23 — "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."
- All Scripture points to Christ; to love God is to follow Jesus as Lord.

3. Jesus Confirms Our Actions in This Life Reveal Our Destination in the Next

- Hebrews 9:27 — "People are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment."
- The rich man's life of luxury and neglect showed a heart untouched by God's love.
- True faith produces transformed living: loving God and loving others.
- How we treat the "Lazarus at our gate" shows the reality of our relationship with Christ.

Closing Truth

- Abraham said, "They will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead."
- Someone *has* risen from the dead — Jesus Christ.
- He tells the truth about eternity because He has seen it and conquered it.
- Our call: trust His Word, follow His way, and live in His love.

Devotion 1 — The Reality of Heaven and Hell

Scripture: Luke 16:23–24 — “In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. 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.’”

Reflection: Jesus doesn’t tell this story as a myth or a metaphor. He gives a glimpse of eternity—two men who lived differently on earth, now living with the eternal results of their choices. Jesus speaks about Heaven and Hell as realities, not possibilities. His authority matters because He has seen both sides. His words aren’t meant to scare us, but to wake us up to what’s real and lasting.

Challenge: Take time today to consider eternity. If Jesus is telling the truth—and He is—then His words should shape how you live right now.

Devotion 2 — The Sufficiency of Scripture

Scripture: Luke 16:29 — “Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’”

Reflection: The rich man begged for a miracle—a sign, a voice from the grave, something that would convince his family. But Abraham’s response points to the power of God’s Word. Scripture is not lacking; it is living and complete. Everything we need to know God, follow Him, and be saved is already written. Jesus confirmed this when He said all of the Law and Prophets hang on loving God and loving others.

Challenge: Don’t wait for a sign when you already have the Scriptures. Spend time today reading God’s Word and listening to what it says. Let His truth shape your next decision.

Devotion 3 — Our Actions Reveal Our Destination

Scripture: James 2:17 — “Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

Reflection: The rich man’s downfall wasn’t his wealth—it was his heart. He ignored the man lying at his gate. His comfort blinded him to compassion. Genuine faith is never hidden; it overflows into love for others. Jesus calls us to a life where love for God naturally produces love for people. Our actions don’t earn salvation, but they reveal whom we truly serve.

Challenge: Look around your life today for a “Lazarus at your gate.” Someone hurting, overlooked, or in need. Do something tangible to love and serve them in Jesus’ name.