

Lifeline

Jesus is Our Savior for Eternity

Luke 16:19-31

Preparation is a common Biblical Theme:

Preparation for Crisis: *“The prudent sees danger & hides himself, but the simple go on & suffer for it.” Proverbs 22:3*

Preparation for Provision: *“Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.” Proverbs 28:19*

Preparation for Building: *“Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field, & after that build your house.” Proverbs 24:27*

Preparation for Conflict: *“Or what king, going out to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first & deliberate whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?” Luke 14:31*

Main Idea: Jesus is Our Lifeline For All Eternity if Our Faith is Fixed on Him

“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple & fine linen & who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came & licked his sores. The poor man died & was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died & was buried, & in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes & saw Abraham far off & Lazarus at his side, And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, & send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water & cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, & Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, & you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us & you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, & none may cross from there to us.’ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house – for I have five brothers – so that he may warn them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses & the Prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses & the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’” Luke 16:19-31

I. Life is Short; Live Wisely – Luke 16:19-22

“Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him.” Proverbs 14:31

“But if anyone has the world’s goods & sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him?” 1 John 3:17

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil & his angels. For I was hungry & you gave me no food, I was thirsty & you gave me no drink, I was a stranger & you did not welcome me, naked & you did not clothe me, sick & in prison & you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, & did not minister to you?’ Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.” Matthew 25:41-46

“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world & forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?” Matthew 16:26

II. Eternity is Forever, Be Prepared – Luke 16:23-26

Jesus teaches that all people will live forever, somewhere, and there are only two options:

- **Hell:** the Bible describes hell as eternal, conscious separation from God, a place of torment, unquenchable fire, anguish, regret, outer darkness & pain.

“Hell is the culmination of telling God to ‘get out.’ You keep telling God to leave you alone, & finally God says, ‘Okay.’ That’s why the Bible describes it as darkness: God is light; his absence is darkness.” J.D. Greear

Good News: Jesus went through literal hell (torment, separation from the Father, darkness & pain) on the cross, so that you would not have to.

- **Heaven:** the Bible describes heaven as eternal, conscious fellowship with God, a place of eternal peace, continual joy and glorious worship of Jesus Christ our Savior!

“Hope is one of the theological virtues. This means that a continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next.” C.S. Lewis (Mere Christianity)

III. It All Comes Down to What You Believe – Luke 16:27-31

The Bible says that you & I are sinners, guilty before God:

Guilt: *“For all have sinned & fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23*

Cost: *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23*

Answer: *“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8*

“Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord & believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes & is justified, & with the mouth one confesses & is saved...For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’” Romans 10:9-10, 13

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- 1001 Humorous Illustrations – Michael Hodgkin (1994)
- Bible Exposition Commentary – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- NAC: Luke – R.H. Stein (1992)
- The Gospel of Luke – William Barclay (1975)
- Luke for Everyone – N.T. Wright (2004)
- Holman Commentary: Luke – Trent. C. Butler (2000)
- Luke: That You May Know the Truth – Kent Hughes (1998)
- MacArthur NT Commentary: Luke – John MacArthur (2011)
- Word Pictures in the New Testament – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- Mere Christianity – C.S. Lewis (1952)
- 7 Truths About Hell – J.D. Greear (2015)

