

Illustrated Message – The Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31 – The Rich man and Lazarus

Matthew 27:52; “And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook and the rocks were split. The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many.”

Ephesians 4:8; “Therefore it says, ‘when he ascended on high he captured captives; he gave gifts to men.’”

I Peter 3:18-20; “Because Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, to bring you to God, by being put to death in the flesh but by being made alive in the Spirit. In it he went and preached to the spirits in prison, after they were disobedient long ago when God patiently waited in the days of Noah as an ark was being constructed. In the ark a few, that is eight souls, were delivered through water.”

Luke 12:4-5; “I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!”

Luke 23:39-42, “One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, ‘Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!’ But the other answered, and rebuking him said, ‘Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.’ And he was saying, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come in Your kingdom!’ And He said to him, ‘Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.’ ”

Ezekiel 3; 16-20; “And at the end of seven days, the word of the Lord came to me: ‘Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for this iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, or from his wicked way, he shall die for his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul. Again, if a righteous person turns from his righteousness and commits injustice, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die. Because you have not warned him, he shall die for his sin, and his righteous deed that he has done shall not be remembered, but his blood I will require at your hand.’”

Romans 10:14-17; “How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

James 5:19-20; “My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”

Matthew 25: 37-40; “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see you a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.”

Revelations 3: 15-17; “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind and naked.”

Revelation 20:15; “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Hebrews 9:27; “And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”

Revelation 20:15; “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

II Corinthians 5:10; “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

Matthew 25:30; “And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Matthew 5:22, 29-30; “But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgement. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire.” Vs. 29-30; “If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.”

Illustrated Message – September 6th, 2015

Review of the Illustrated Message

[Click to watch the short video of The Rich Man and Lazarus.](#) What a rich message this is! What thoughts went through your mind and what stirs your heart about this story you just saw? Is it the greed of the rich man or the destitute situation of Lazarus? Does paradise (Abraham’s bosom) still exist? Are we mindful of the needy around us? Are riches wrong?

Here are a few points that we can meditate on;

1. Paradise (or Abraham's bosom) ended with the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Under the old covenant, we see Hades and Paradise with a chasm between them. People who did not believe in God or obey Him were judged to Hades and those who believed in God and served Him, were in Paradise. Paradise or with Father Abraham, was an interim location for saints until Jesus came and conquered death, hell and the grave. At Jesus' death, among other things, it says that the tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many! WOW! Jesus broke open Paradise and Hades; preached to the spirits in prison (I Peter 3:18-20); He split the veil of the Holy of Holies open, so now all the dead saints now had direct access to heaven after His resurrection, Matthew 27:52. Those living now since the time of Jesus resurrection, will go to heaven immediately if they are truly born again, and those who have rejected Christ on this earth, will be eternally judged to hell. Once we're dead, there is no second chance; no one can pass from one side to the other. The decision is to be made on earth about our eternal destination.
2. It was a **heart** issue with this rich man. It would seem as though he served mammon and not God as Jesus makes reference to only a few verses earlier. Luke 16:13; "You cannot serve God and mammon," and vs. 15 says; "And He said to them, 'You are those who justify yourselves before men, but **God knows your hearts.**'" Lazarus on the other hand believed and loved God; but his situation was dire as he was a beggar, full of sores and hungry. But, he was in Paradise! He had heaven as his ultimate home. Jesus says in Matthew 25: 37-40; "... Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." This is the situation of this rich man in the story. The god of mammon ruled his life.
3. So let's look at this from a different perspective; as Christians, we're now the regal and stately rich ones!! Here are just a few thing of what we do have, and things we've been made or given:
 - a. made kings and priests unto God
 - b. clothed with robes of righteousness
 - c. given health and healing through the blood of Jesus
 - d. made to sit with Christ Jesus in heavenly places
 - e. born again and have eternal life
 - f. given power and authority over the devil

With all the kingdom riches that Jesus has freely given to us ... who are the Lazarus' in our lives? How many people do we pass by day in and out who are poor, destitute and naked, physically or spiritually? They may have been there for years. Do we continually walk by them and give them nothing; no spiritual food or neither share the gospel with them? The prophet Ezekiel was given a stern admonition by God, in Ezekiel 3:16-20; "... but his blood I will require at your hand." I believe that as New Testament believers, we need to heed this same word. God is willing that none should

perish and He is longsuffering, giving every opportunity to every person to repent. We're the vessels He wants to use to preach the gospel. To whom much has been given, much will be required.

Jesus isn't against wealth, but it can't be the one we serve. Paul, our hero of faith in the New Testament, says in Philippians 4:11-13; "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." And in II Corinthians 4:7-9; "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the **EXCELLENCE OF THE POWER** may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed – always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body."

Let's be generous of heart toward God ... in every area of our life!

