

Luke 16:19-31 *The Rich Man and Lazarus*

(Lets look at the Rich man in Hades!)

First, the man in hades was fully conscious immediately after death.

- Memory, speaking, pain and bliss all of these were part of his experience.

“Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame.” vs 24

- Perpetually burning lusts will never subside. There will be increased desire with decreased satisfaction.

The alcoholic will thirst for a drop of liquor, but none will be given to him. The drug addict will crave a shot of heroin, but will not receive it. The immoral man will burn with sexual desire, but never be satisfied.

Second, the etrnal destiny of this man was irrevocably fixed.

- Whereas the relatives on earth can leave a funeral home, go out for dinner, and plan a vacation, their friend in hades (explain hades vs purgatory) is confined, without the possibility of escape.

“Between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, in order that those who wish to come over from here to you may not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us” vs 26

- As M.R. DeHann put it, *“Once we have passed through the door of death we can’t pick up our suitcase and move out because we don’t like the accommodation.”*
- In hades there is torture, isolation, boredom, and triviality. No challenges can be undertaken; no goals set; no pleasures sampled.

Third, this man knew himself well enough to know that what he was experiencing was fair and just.

- In hades his entire life was present to him; his transfer into the nether world did not diminish, but only heightened, his self-awareness.

-He begged Abraham to send Lazarus back to his father's house,

“for I have five brothers- that he may warn them, lest they also come to this place of torment.” Vs 28

- He complains about the pain, but does not complain about the injustice.
- He also knew exactly what his brothers would have to do if they were to avoid his own fate. Incredibly, the man suddenly becomes interested in missions! Apparently, even in hades there is compassion, a natural human concern about the fate of those who are loved.

Which leads to a question, *“What is the one thing you CAN NOT do after you die?”*

Answer: **Evangelize! Share Christ!!!**

- Abraham said no, because they had Moses and the Prophets, this man replied, *“No, Father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!” vs 30*
- Abraham's answer is instructive. *“If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.” vs 31*

How true! Look at how many today here of Christ story and even though the evidence for His resurrection is overwhelming, many men and women still don't believe. When Christ told this story, He had not yet been put to death and resurrected.

Not even a spectacular "sign," like one returning from the dead, can change those whose hearts are set against God's Word, as the response of many to the resurrection of Jesus was to show.

As the saying goes, "*A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still.*"

Remember when sharing your faith, that when rejected the unbeliever is NOT rejecting you but rather they are rejecting Christ!

Here are a few implications from this story:

- 1) This is a true story (told by Christ) and not a parable as some commentaries say. Vs 19 says, "***There was*** a rich man..."
- 2) Before we die we have life and death choices to make that have eternal consequences.
- 3) Not all will except Christ. Even the Law, Prophecy or a resurrected body will not bring them to Christ.