

The Richman and Lazarus

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Saturday, November 21, 2020
John 13:34-35; Luke 16:19-31;
Col 1:17; Heb 1:3; I Pet 2:24-25

³⁴ “I give you a new command: Love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you.
³⁵ All people will know that you are my followers if you love each other.” John 13:34–35

We all have a hard time accepting a belief in Hell, but Jesus doesn't. You must understand this to fully understand Jesus' love.

¹⁹ Jesus said, “There was a certain rich man who was splendidly clothed in purple and fine linen and who lived each day in luxury. ²⁰ At his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus who was covered with sores. Luke 16:19-20

²¹ As Lazarus lay there longing for scraps from the rich man's table, the dogs would come and lick his open sores. ²² “Finally, the poor man died and was carried by the angels to sit beside Abraham at the heavenly banquet. The rich man also died and was buried, Luke 16:21-22

²³ and he went to the place of the dead. There, in torment, he saw Abraham in the far distance with Lazarus at his side. Luke 16:23

²⁴ “The rich man shouted, ‘Father Abraham, have some pity! Send Lazarus over here to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames.’ Luke 16:24

²⁵ “But Abraham said to him, ‘Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted, and Lazarus had nothing. So now he is here being comforted, and you are in anguish. Luke 16:25

²⁶ And besides, there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there.’ Luke 16:26

²⁷ “Then the rich man said, ‘Please, Father Abraham, at least send him to my father's home.
²⁸ For I have five brothers, and I want him to warn them so they don't end up in this place of torment.’ Luke 16:27-28

²⁹ “But Abraham said, ‘Moses and the prophets have warned them. Your brothers can read what they wrote.’ Luke 16:29

³⁰ “The rich man replied, ‘No, Father Abraham! But if someone is sent to them from the dead, then they will repent of their sins and turn to God.’ Luke 16:30

³¹ “But Abraham said, ‘If they won’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they won’t be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’ ” Luke 16:31

Two men one significant contrast: Only one has a name.

Lazarus--He (whom) God has helped. God is my help.

You go to Hell by making anything other than God your help. He goes to hell because he isn’t anything other than a rich man.

“Son, remember that during your lifetime you had everything you wanted” - Luke 16:25
When you take away the thing that is most important or that you live for, what is left?

Hell is a place of disintegration. Fire breaks things down. It doesn’t mean it ceases to exist, it just falls to pieces.

The more you are absorbed in yourself, the more you breakdown: Mental breakdown; Emotional breakdown; Physical breakdown.

¹⁷ He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. Colossians 1:17

³ The Son reflects the glory of God and shows exactly what God is like. He holds everything together with his powerful word. Hebrews 1:3

Hell is when you finally get what you want. Self-centeredness becomes your prison.

“Hell begins with a grumbling mood, always complaining, always blaming others... but you are still distinct from it. You may even criticize it in yourself and wish you could stop it. But there may come a day when you can no longer. Then there will be no you left to criticize the mood or even to enjoy it, but just the grumble itself, going on forever like a machine. It is not a question of God "sending us" to hell. In each of us there is something growing, which will BE hell unless it is nipped in the bud. ” – C.S. Lewis

The Rich man doesn’t pray to God, he doesn’t ask for forgiveness, but still thinks he should be able to order Lazarus around.

Send Lazarus to my brothers. Blame (not my fault). There hasn’t been enough done for me.

The ungodly enjoy God. He is their religion, but he is not their treasure. Knowing God doesn’t matter to them; He is only a means to an end.

The problem is identifying what is my help, letting go of my own way and my own help.
“I’m good on my own.”

Those who have made God their help: They enjoy the treasures of life with thanksgiving; They use them with joy, but they are not driven by them.

When your treasures get threatened-- You grumble, you fear, you worry, you hate, and you blame.

Hell is simply letting you get to have your own way--Which is exactly what the world thinks freedom is.

²⁴ He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed. 1 Peter 2:24

²⁵ Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls. 1 Peter 2:25

Make God your help and treasure. All people will know that you are my followers.