

LEARNING VALUABLE LESSONS FROM ONE WHO LOST HIS SOUL

The story is found in Luke 16:19-31. The “rich man” had to wake up in eternity before his eyes were opened to the truth. He has now suddenly become an expert on living a wasted life and realizes that “no man can serve two masters” (Matt. 6:24). The love of riches, the cares of this world, and the pleasures of sin will choke one’s soul to death. If the love of God does not master us, the love of this world will.

The ungodly always seek to justify themselves in the sight of men. They should remember that God knows their hearts and that those things exalted among men are “an abomination in the sight of God” (Luke 16:14-15). The inspired words recorded about “a certain rich man” and “a certain beggar named Lazarus” (Luke 16:19-20) contains valuable lessons for those who will hear.

One may impress men and live like a king in the sight of men, and yet be utterly corrupt in the sight of God! The “purple and fine linen” (v.19) that make up man’s righteousness and turns heads in this world was of no comfort to the rich man in eternity. Multitudes who selfishly live only for themselves and think they have need of nothing, are in reality “the wretched one and miserable and poor and blind and naked” (Rev. 3:17). We need to learn that men may be impressed with many things that do not impress God.

One may be poor and loathsome in the eyes of his neighbor, and yet be rich and beautiful in the sight of God. Lazarus was placed at the rich man’s “gate, full of sores,” and desired only “to be fed with the crumbs that fell from the rich man’s table” (vs.20-21). There is no doubt but that the beggar was a disgusting sight to many as the dogs “came and licked his sores” (v.21). God,

however, has always been impressed with one’s heart and not his outward appearance (I Sam. 16:7). Even though Lazarus was considered to be worthless in the sight of men, he was a precious jewel in the sight of God.

A man may have a pompous funeral but be a miserable soul! It is a common thing for men to eulogize the past of the departed rich and famous, but what about their present? Yes, the rich man died and in all probability was given a magnificent funeral, but “in hades he lifted up his eyes, beings in torments” (v.23). It is surely the case that not many mourned the death of Lazarus, yet “he was carried away by the angels into Abraham’s bosom” (v.22).

One may have abundance of this world’s goods but in the world to come be utterly destitute. Most people measure success by what they accomplish in this life. The problem is that God does not use the same measuring stick that man uses. One may be a tremendous success according to the world’s standard but only a miserable failure in the sight of God. Having no needs or cares in this life is no evidence that one’s soul is right with God. The everlasting thirst for only a drop of water will be a terrible torment for one who never knew what it is like to be thirsty (v.24).

If one neglects his opportunities in this life, he will have an eternity to remember his folly. One’s memory will be the greatest of tormentors throughout eternity. A person who has lived his life only for the gratification of his own selfish desires will have an eternity to reflect on his mistake. In hades the rich man begged for mercy, but such request was too late (v.24). The answer of Abraham was something that the rich man would play over again and again in his mind. Abraham said, “Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things: but now here he is comforted, and thou art tormented” (v.25).

The righteous and unrighteous live together in this world, but a day is coming when they will be eternally separated. People grow quite fond of earthly relationships in this world. Earthly relationships will mean nothing, however, when the great gulf is fixed (v.26). The only thing that will matter then is our relationship with God and Christ. In this world, people can choose to do as they please. It is necessary for the righteous and the unrighteous to cross paths as they travel through this life. There is, however, a day coming when the words of the Savior will be vividly recalled. Christ warned, “Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather up first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them; but gather the wheat into my barn” (Matt. 13:30).

The prayers and wishes of the lost will avail nothing for themselves or others. Those who do not value prayer in this life will find that prayer has no value for them in the life to come. All will have a change of heart or mind in the Day of Judgment. But alas, it will be too late (vs.24,27-28)!

The lessons are yours to learn while it is yet today!

Marvin L. Weir *from* **Seek The Old Paths**

God’s Plan of Salvation

Believe in Jesus Christ	Mark 16:16
Repent of your sins.....	Acts 2:38
Confess the Lord Jesus.....	Romans 10:9-10
Be baptized and wash away your sins.....	Acts 22:16
Be faithful unto death.....	Revelation 2:10

BIRTHDAY

Paula Stillwell, 10-31.

ILL

Sunday: Kathleen Camp. **Wednesday:** Janice and Jessica Carter.

Betty James, John James' sister-in-law, had surgery for cancer last week and is recovering at home. Jim O'Connor was treated for his illness last week but continues to have difficulties. Jamal Abyad continues to have difficulties with cancer.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, David Cole, and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Wilba Hopkins is in Iola, Kansas visiting relatives this weekend. Dave Parish is in California on business. Trent Thrasher is in Fulton, Missouri this weekend. Cindy Nelson was in Texas visiting relatives last week. Debra Gragg returned from her vacation on Sunday.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held next Sunday, November 4 following AM worship. All are encouraged to come and enjoy the good food and company.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 11 following AM worship. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend this meeting.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 72; Sunday PM, 41; Wednesday PM, 36.

Those To Serve

October 28, 2007

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nelson

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas
SONG LEADER..... Steve Brown
OPENING PRAYER Chris Edwards
PRESIDE..... Trent Thrasher
ASSIST..... Jared Nelson
ASSIST..... David Parish
CLOSING PRAYER..... Jeff Nemechek

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Cody Carter
CLOSING PRAYER..... Joel Nelson
LORD'S SUPPER..... Trent Thrasher

WEDNESDAY 31st

SONG LEADER..... 5th Wednesday Singing
INVITATION Jeff Nemechek

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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