

THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD JESUS

Lesson Twenty-one

GOSPEL PRESENTATION (2): THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS--THE DESTINIES OF TWO PERSONS

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we can vividly see beyond the curtain of death into the destinies of two men: a rich man who rejected God's Word in his lifetime and lived sumptuously, and a poor man named Lazarus who believed in God's Word in his lifetime and lived in poverty and pain. The rich man died and passed from temporary comfort to eternal torment; the poor man died and passed from temporary suffering to eternal comfort. We, like Lazarus, should believe in God's Word of salvation and put our faith in Christ.

Memory Verse: "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life, and will not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life" (John 5:24).

Facts to Teach: [Scripture reading: Luke 16:19-31]

1. This is a true story spoken by the Lord Jesus to warn those who reject God's Word of salvation and only care to live for today, as though there will be no need to give an account of our lives after death.
2. The difference while alive:
 - a. One man was rich (his name is not given because he does not appear in the Book of Life); well-dressed, honorable, merry, comfortable, and eating well. The rich man did not believe in God's Word. Although he knew about it he rejected it (Luke 16:28-29).
 - b. Lazarus (his name is mentioned explicitly because in God's sight he is honorable and appears in the Book of Life--Rev. 20:15) was a very poor man, a beggar, who dressed in rags and lived in misery, pain, and sickness with sores all over his skin due to malnutrition. Lazarus, however, believed in God's Word of the Old Testament.
3. The difference after death:
 - a. Both died (not only poor Lazarus), for all men must die one day, because the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23a).
 - b. After dying, Lazarus was no longer alone. He was carried away by angels to a place of comfort in Abraham's bosom. When the rich man died and was buried no angels took care of his soul. Instead, he went to a place of torment and suffering. In the fire of Hades he thirsted (like Lazarus did when he laid outside his gate) but no relief would be granted him. There was a great chasm between the two sections of Hades (the section of comfort, called

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Paradise in Luke 23:43, and the section of fire, torment, and anguish) that separated the rich man from Lazarus (as the gate used to during their lifetime), so that there could be no crossing over from one section to the other.

4. The reasons for the difference:
 - a. Lazarus was not saved because he was poor, neither was the rich man condemned because he was rich.
 - b. One is saved or lost depending on how he responds to God's Word (Luke 16:29). If someone hears the Word of God and believes in Christ he will be saved. (Such a one will not care much about the passing sufferings of this lifetime.) If someone hears the Word of God and rejects it, not believing in Christ nor receiving His salvation, he is lost.

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON TWENTY-ONE

1. After Lazarus and the rich man died, where did the soul of the rich man go? _____ Where did the soul of Lazarus go? (Luke 16:22-23) _____
2. Describe the rich man's experience in Hades. (Luke 16:24)
3. Describe Lazarus' experience in Abraham's bosom (Paradise). (Luke 16:25)
4. After death could the rich man repent and then go to Paradise? (Luke 16:26) Yes _____ No _____
5. If a person does not believe God's Word and rejects it, would he probably believe it if someone came back from the dead and warned him of his eternal destiny? (Luke 16:31)
Yes _____ No _____