**November 27, 2016 “The Rich Man and Lazarus” Luke 16: 19-31**

In the United States, today we are hearing a great deal about an idea called “Social Justice.” In that ideal, everyone should be somewhat equal in financial blessings. The rich should give to those less fortunate than themselves and the poor should expect and maybe even demand that those who are more fully endowed with the splendors of this life…share them with those less fortunate. Then life will be grand for all and everybody will be happy and live fulfilled lives.

Luke chapter 16 is sometimes used to support the view that the rich should be giving the poor aid. If the rich do not do that then they will be punished and sent to Hell because they did not do that which was right. However, this passage or parable has nothing at all to do with social justice but rather it serves as a wake-up call to those think that:

1. They are a good person and deserve to go to heaven
2. A loving God would never send a person like me to Hell
3. God knows I believe in Him even if I show little interest in Him

There is so much in this passage of Scripture that we could spend weeks exploring the full content of it but for our purposes today we will address the major points.

The passage is broken out into three parts and we will follow that pattern. There is:

1. The lives of both men
2. The death of both men
3. The lives after death of both men

Perhaps before start, we should address the reason why Jesus was telling this parable to the Pharisees…. the religious leaders of that day. Luke 16: 14-15

1. Luke 16: 19-21
   1. Rich man
   2. Lazarus
   3. Rich man
      1. What do we know of him?
         1. Habitually dressed in purple and fine linen
            1. If you were wealthy in that day you could afford a wool robe

If you were really wealthy, it would be dyed purple

You would wear a fine linen under the wool robe

Maybe Egyptian linen

* + - 1. Joyously living
         1. Quite a partier
         2. Ate well, drank well and lived the good life
  1. Why was this mentioned?
     1. Pharisees taught that those whom God loved He richly blessed
     2. Since this man was so rich
        1. It meant he was loved by God
        2. He was in God’s graces
  2. Lazarus on the other hand
     1. Name means “Whom the Lord saved or whom the Lord helped”
     2. He was poor
        1. Dirt poor…. poorer than dirt
           1. Was laid…. probably paralyzed

At the gate of the rich man

At the place where the rich man passed

At the place where he would be noticed

* + - * 1. Longing to eat

Never had enough to eat

What he did eat…. was dog food

* + - * 1. Covered with sores

Dogs licked them maybe because he couldn’t move

* + - 1. No mention of his clothes because they probably were absolutely worthless

1. Vs 22…. both men died
   1. Complete reversal but not without purpose
      1. Rich man died and was buried
         1. Maybe great eulogies
         2. Maybe hired mourners
         3. Maybe a great feast in his honor?
         4. Goes to Hell
      2. Do not miss the point…….no matter how rich or poor all will die!!!!
   2. Lazarus is carried away by angels to Abraham’s bosom
      1. To Abraham’s bosom
         1. To the place next to the most exalted Jew of all time????
         2. Place of exaltation
         3. Place of honor
2. Life after death Vs 23-31
   1. Note only the rich man speaks
   2. Note also this is the only testimony in Scripture of a man in Hell
      1. Father Abraham
         1. Used 3 times
            1. Vs 24, 27 and 30
      2. Why?
         1. Jews all said, “We are the children of Abraham
         2. We because of our lineage…. will inherit heaven
   3. Note the following:
      1. Send Lazarus
         1. Lazarus had to be known by this rich man
         2. He, the rich man chose to ignore Lazarus
         3. The rich man still thinks Lazarus is his lesser
            1. Send the low-life
            2. Send him to help me
      2. Where is the rich man’s interest?
         1. He is in agony (vs 25)
         2. He is without any hope
            1. Great chasm fixed (vs 26)
      3. Why doesn’t he ask for forgiveness?
      4. Why doesn’t he say this is right or fair to be treated like this?
         1. Mark 9: 42-48
         2. What is that worm that dies not?
            1. The conscience that always will condemn us
            2. Yes…. Yes…. I deserve this
   4. Send Lazarus to my brothers
      1. Why?
         1. They all had to know Lazarus as well
         2. So, they don’t come to this place
   5. They have the Moses and the prophets
   6. They will not listen even if someone rises from the dead
      1. Why not?
         1. The deceitfulness of sin
         2. Oh, you are a good person
         3. Oh, God would never send you to Hell
3. The soul that sinneth will surely die
   1. The only Hope of salvation is in Christ alone
      1. This may be the last sermon you will ever hear
      2. You have no guarantee you will make it home
   2. There is no other name given among men by which we must be saved

Lord’s Supper