

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

LUKE 16:19-31

Do you think rich people are happy? What happens if they don't know Jesus as their Saviour? What happens after they die? You know, rich and poor people alike need Jesus' love and forgiveness and the peace and security that only Jesus can give. Luke chapter 16 tells us that Jesus told a story, or parable, to those who love money and spend their time enjoying themselves instead of loving and obeying God.

There was a very rich man, Jesus said, who dressed in beautiful clothes and only ate the best food. And there was a beggar named Lazarus who was sick and covered with sores. Because he was poor, he had very little to eat. So his friends carried him to the rich man's gate and left him there to beg for the scraps, the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table. The dogs even came to lick the poor beggar's sores.

One day the beggar died and was carried to heaven by the angels. He was not poor there and he ate with Abraham. Then the rich man died and was buried. But he went to hell where the bad and unforgiven people go. There being punished for his sins, he looked up and saw Abraham and Lazarus far away. "Father Abraham", he shouted, "Have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water to cool my tongue for I am tormented in these flames." But Abraham said to him, "Remember that in your lifetime you had everything good and Lazarus had nothing. But now he is happy and comforted but you are sad and tormented. And besides, there is a great gulf fixed between us so that no one can come and help you and you cannot come to us." Then the rich man said "Then please send Lazarus to my 5 brothers at home to tell them to repent and obey God so when they die they will not come to this dreadful place." Abraham replied, "The Bible already tells them that." But the rich man said "No father Abraham that is not enough. But if someone returns from the dead and told them then they would surely repent." Abraham replied, "If they will not listen to what God says to them in the Bible, they will not obey Him even if someone is raised from the dead."

You know after that, Jesus Christ rose from the dead. But even so, few people listened to Him. And so many people do not believe in Jesus or love Him and listen to Him today. Are you listening to Jesus?

The Bible tells us a lot about God's wonderful plan of Salvation. God knew that we needed that. We could never get to heaven our own way. The Bible tells us we are sinners. God loves us but hates our sin. We must repent and receive as a gift what Jesus did on the cross for us so we will have a place in heaven. Have you believed what Jesus did on the cross for you? Have you received His forgiveness and salvation? Take time to read the story in your Bible in Luke chapter 16 verses 19 to 31.