

Remnant Life Church
August 21, 2016
The Parables of Jesus:
A Tale of Two Men
Luke 16:19-31

- A short story that teaches a moral or spiritual lesson

READ – Luke 16:19-31

- The scene appears to have changed to either outside or another location - **15:1** – Sinners gathered around Him; now outside the Pharisee's home
- Jesus is still talking with the Pharisees and in this parable He encapsulates the life and destiny of their self-seeking and covetousness (**16:14** – loved money and were sneering at Him)
- Truly a tale of 2 men
 - The one lived every day in luxury
 - The other lived every day in torment
 - One had more than he could possibly ever consume or use
 - The other wanted only the scraps from his table (same analogy used in **15:16** of the prodigal son who only wanted the corn husks from the pig's trough)
- In the account Jesus is very descriptive so that the hearer understands the great difference between the 2 men
 - They were different in life
 - The rich man was VERY wealthy
 - He lived in luxury meaning removed from the riff-raff (gated home)
 - Dressed in purple – purple dye came from a shellfish and was very expensive to process (in other words money was no object)
 - The linens were in reference to what he wore directly against his body
 - Lazarus (Greek form of the Hebrew name meaning “the one whom God helps”)
 - He did not have everything he had nothing
 - Homeless; failing health; hungry
 - His companions were the stray dogs who would lick his open sores
 - His condition, according to Mosaic law, kept him by the gates and not in the town (**Lev 13, 14; Num 5:2**) let alone the temple where he might be healed
 - In spite of his horrible circumstances he somehow knew and loved God
 - They were very different in death
 - (**16:22**) Lazarus died and was taken by angels
 - He was probably simply discovered dead by the gate and his body taken to a place where the homeless and outcast were taken and disposed of outside of town
 - (**16:22**) The rich man died *and was buried*

- The family would have spent money on expensive perfumes; hired mourners; held an elaborate service at a family tomb
- They were different in eternity
 - Lazarus was taken to Abraham's side (some translations same Abraham's bosom)
 - Place of honor (**Luke 14**) with the father of believers (**Rom 4:11**)
 - **Matt 20:16** - *So the last will be first, and the first will be last*
 - The rich man is taken to Hell (Hades) the holding place of torment until the Great White Throne Judgement (**Rev 20:11-14**)
 - Even now we see the depth of the the rich man's pride as he treats Lazarus like a servant (**16:24,27**)
 - The rich man received all his good in life while Lazarus received bad (**16:25**)
 - Once this time is reached the die is cast and cannot be changed (**16:26**) – "Lifeclock" – me: 90 years 6 months

5 Doctrines this parable teaches:

1. The soul does not die with the body
 - Most who refuse to acknowledge Jesus hold to this as their reason – there is nothing after death
 - The Bible clearly indicates (Jesus Himself states this) that the soul continues on after the death of the body
 - **2 Cor 5:8** – *to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord*
 - This is true for both the believer and non-believer
 - There are only 2 possible destinations – heaven or hell
2. The reality of heaven and hell
 - This is a subject that people, Christians, even pastors don't like to talk about
 - The finality of torment is unacceptable to people's senses and minds
 - WE have no trouble talking about heaven and most people (church or no) believe they are going there (4% believe they are going to hell)
 - The fact is not everyone will
 - **Matt 7:21-23** - *Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'*
 - **John 14:6** – Jesus is the only way
3. The soul, apart from the body, is conscious
 - **Luke 16:23** - *In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.*
 - We will be aware of our surroundings
 - Whether we are in comfort or torment
 - AND we will be aware that there is no way to change where we are and that others are in danger

- (6:26) – Great chasm between heaven and hell
4. The wicked and evil will be punished
- Again this is something that many even within the church do not want to acknowledge – but it is still true
 - Jesus does not say that the rich man was immoral but he was self-centered and did nothing to help the needy man right outside his gate
 - He was probably what we would all consider a “good man”
 - TRUTH – goodness is not good enough
 - **Rom 3:23** – all have sinned...
 - **Rom 3:10** – no one righteous
 - But God has provided a way to salvation, the cleansing of our sins, the removal of the punishment that our sinful natures warrant
5. The righteous are rewarded
- **John 14:2-3** - *My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*
 - This is why we cannot judge ourselves or others by what we have
 - Earthly possessions and position have absolutely NOTHING to do with eternity
 - Does that mean if we have good things on earth and we cannot be a righteous man or woman? NO
 - As in all things – it is about the desires of your heart
 - **Luke 6:27-36** – Jesus teaches to give, love, and expect nothing in return
 - (6:22-23) – Great is your reward in heaven when you are persecuted because of Jesus in your life
- As we live here on earth we have to make a conscious decision as to where we will spend eternity, and one day we will reap what we sow.
 - Death is the great equalizer
 - True today as much as it was then
 - The lie of this age – “Whoever dies with the most toys – wins”
 - The actual truth – “Whoever dies with the most toys – is still dead”
 - Money, prestige, position, big house, powerful position – NOTHING can save you from death and the eternity based on what you decide here in life but it is warning given in love for every person
 - Jesus used this parable as a way to once again reveal the true hearts of the Pharisees
 - If you have never accepted Jesus Christ as your personal savior what are you waiting for?
 - There will come a time when it will be too late
 - If not for you, then for those you love?