

## Parable of Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31

### The Truth Before It's Too Late

Have you ever had some times in your life that you wish someone had told you the truth about something before you got involved or before you purchased that item?

When Rosemary and I was a newly married young couple, a new opportunity came into town. This was the 1<sup>st</sup> attempt at a Sam's Club except it cost \$400 to become a member. It sounded like a great deal. You would get to purchase appliances and furniture at a discounted price. We bought into the deal.

I wish someone would have been truthful with us because the real truth was that we did not have the money to get into the club and that we could not afford to purchase anything after becoming a member of the club.

Around our community today are people who don't know the truth about heaven and hell or where they could spend eternity. In Luke 16, Jesus helps us understand the truth before it is too late.

Read vs. 19-31

I want us to look at 2 thoughts about this story today:

#### 1. What if the rich man had reached out to help Lazarus?

Lazarus may have had the opportunity to tell the rich man how to secure his place in heaven.

Here was a man who had sores on his body, obviously, he couldn't get a job because of his medical problem, and he had to beg.

We can only guess that he loved God and had a relationship with Him because when he died he was carried to be with Abraham, a symbol of heaven.

If the rich man had taken pity on Lazarus, invited him into his home, fed him, and tended to his needs, Lazarus may have told the rich man about God.

How many times a week are we around people whom we would not or will not speak too or that we are too busy with our own concerns that we just pass by an opportunity to tell about our wonderful alive God?

Even simple statements like "God Bless You" make an impression on people. I have noticed that when I tell someone "God Bless You" I get one of two different responses. That person will either remain silent or will respond with a Thank You.

We may not have time to verbally give the message of Jesus' love to everyone we see but we can let them see Jesus in our actions, words, deeds, and attitudes.

2. What are we doing today to help people understand they have a choice of eternity in heaven or hell?

Why is it that we can talk about everything in the world except telling others about the Good News of Jesus? It seems like we freeze up, become tongue tied, or allow fear to overtake us even when we think about telling people what God's Word has to say.

It is sad, but many people sitting in our churches today have never led anyone to make a decision for Christ. You may be part of that statistic.

It is sad that we will allow Satan victory when it comes to being a witness. Yes, we need to live our life as an example for Jesus. But people need to hear the Word also. The best way for people to hear is for you to tell your story of how God has made a difference in your life.

The end of time as we know it is close. There should be an urgency to help people around us see that the road of life they are traveling is leading them the wrong direction. Have we become too complacent in our life as a Christian that we don't even think about telling the Good News?

Do we measure up to this task that Jesus gave us in Matthew 28:19-20?