

# MISSION SUNDAY: OUR FAMILIES GREATEST NEED

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**OPEN:** There is a remedy for the penalty of sin and we need to communicate the Gospel every opportunity we can.

- ❖ Luke is the only Gospel to record this “parable”/story/event.
  - Some argue that it is not an imaginary tale but an actual incident.
    - ✓ What’s different? We have an actual name for two of the characters...Lazarus (not to be confused with Mary and Martha’s brother in John 11) and Abraham.
    - ✓ Parables do not name particular people...ex. Luke 15 “a certain man had two sons (no names) wasted his money in a “far country.” (what country?)
- ❖ Jesus tells the parable/incident for the benefit of the Pharisees.
  - There was this false presumption that a man was rich because he had upon him the divine favor of God.
    - ✓ The thought that a rich man would go to hell and a poor man to heaven would raise eye brows.
- ❖ Text: **Luke 16:19-31**
  - Could these men be any more different?

Rich man	Poor man
Lived spendidly	Lived on scraps
Nice clothes, nice house	Rags, no home
Enjoyed the finer things of life	Barely got by
  - The Pharisees would have seen the beggar as unclean, despised by God, (open sores)...disgusting. (remember our reading in Leviticus...bodily changes).

- The one thing they have in common is they both die...death comes to the rich and the poor...the young and the old.

1) Two **DESTINIES.** (*PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE*)

- No purgatory, no waiting for a future resurrection, no hesitation...though the body wears out, the soul moves on.
- The word for “hades” (NKJV vs. 23) is the word “sheol” in Hebrew and means place of the dead...where departed spirits go.
  - ✓ In the N.T. “hades” always refers to the place of the wicked, a place of punishment.
  - ✓ The rich man lived in luxury but woke up in misery.
- The beggar who lived on scraps at the rich man’s gate now sits at the banquet table with Abraham...heaven.
- There is a heaven and there is a hell.
  - ✓ Hell is not a place of rehabilitation but a place of eternal punishment.
  - ✓ The rich man is consciously aware: he saw, he heard, he remembered and he was tormented...(role reversal) now he is the beggar asking for one drop of water.
  - ✓ Better to be a beggar on earth and rich in heaven than to be rich on earth and a beggar in hell.

2) Two **CHOICES.** (*PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE*)

- It wasn’t his riches that sent the man to hell, it was his unrepentance, after all, Abraham was a wealthy man.
  - ✓ But, this man lived for himself, his money gave him a false sense of security.
  - ✓ The rich young ruler chose his money/possession over eternal life.

**Matthew 19:23 (NLT)** – Then Jesus said to His disciples, I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

- ✓ Materialism can blind us to our greater need...

**Luke 12:16-20 (NKJV)** - <sup>16</sup> Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. <sup>17</sup> And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’ <sup>18</sup> So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.” <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’

- A good and honest God must punish sin...the rich man never came to terms with his need for a Savior and died a sinner.
- ✓ The beggar realizing his need cried out for the mercy and the grace of God.
- ✓ You can either accept the suffering of Christ as payment for your sin debt or you can pay for your sin yourself.
  - The stubborn, hardened sinner edges closer to their eternal doom.
  - The humble, repentful sinner cries out...be merciful to me, O’ God...I trust your Son – Jesus.

### 3) Too **LATE**. (**PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE**)

- The rich man’s thoughts turn to his 5 brothers...he didn’t want them to experience what he was enduring.
- ✓ He seems to maintain his condescending attitude...send Lazarus back to inform my brothers.
- ✓ Abraham says... “no can do”...they have the O.T. scriptures let them read from Moses and the prophets.
  - Repentance comes by hearing the word of God.

- **2 Timothy 3:15**...the Holy Scriptures are able to make you wise (aware) of salvation in Christ Jesus.
- ✓ Interesting...there is sadness in hell over unrepentant sinners.
  - There is joy in Heaven over one sinner that repents (Luke 15:7).
- ❖ What about us? Will we take advantage of the opportunities we have?
- ❖ Today we make available this opportunity: Will you given in memory of a loved one 5 Bibles and help the Gideons continue to distribute the Scriptures?

**CLOSE:**

- Two destinies: heaven or hell.
- Two choices: Repent and receive Christ or remain hardened and reject Christ.
- Too late: Will you make the most of the opportunities to declare the good news of Christ while you can?

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**Message Notes**  
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