# The Rich Man and Lazarus

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## INTRODUCTION

- Isn't that what the Christian life is, brethren? It's a life of always improving until the day you die.
- Money is not the root of all evil. As you have heard and know, it is the love of money that is the root of all evil.
- The primary focus is eternity. That's what this story is really about. And it's about are we really prepared?

## 1 Earthly Circumstances Are No Indicator of Spiritual Condition

**Job 21; Ephesians 3:8**

- Earthly circumstances are no indicator of one's spiritual condition.
- Good circumstances are no indication of righteousness.
- Just because a person is successful doesn't mean that God is on their side. God sends the rain on the just and the unjust.
- So bad circumstances are no indication of wickedness.
- Spiritually speaking, Lazarus was filthy rich. Fabulously wealthy. And the rich man was as poor and destitute as can be imagined, spiritually speaking.
- If you are serving Christ, you need to realize that you are spiritually wealthy.

## 2 Two Eternal Abodes

**Acts 2:31**

- Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom, and the rich man also died and was buried.
- There were no mourners. There was no celebration of any sort. There was no ceremony. But there were angels.
- If there's hope in the future, there's power in the present.
- In Hades, he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom.
- And all of us will end up in one of two places. There's no in-between.
- Being good won't get you to heaven. And we need to make sure our souls are ready.

## 3 The Time of Mercy Will Come to an End

**John 8**

- Father Abraham, have mercy on me and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.
- Lazarus only wanted crumbs. Now the rich man just wants a drop of water.
- There is a time for mercy. But the time of mercy will come to an end.
- The point of this is that once we die, our spiritual fate is sealed.

- The time of mercy is now. Now is the time when God has his hand outstretched to you.

## 4 The Scriptures Are Adequate for Faith

- But Abraham said, They have Moses and the prophets. Let them hear them.
- We all have a Bible. We all have adequate warning so that we can turn our lives to the Lord.
- When we go to study the word of God, it has power to change our lives, and we need to take heed to its warnings.
- If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be persuaded, even if someone rises from the dead.
- If scriptures do not convince, neither will any kind of a miracle, even a resurrection.
- If we don't listen to the Bible, we will listen to nothing. And if the Bible doesn't change us, nothing will.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Are you going to heaven? Are you going to heaven? Or are you going to hell? If you doubt whether you're going to heaven, do something to change it.**

MY NOTES