The Rich Man and Lazarus

Greg Kline · Luke 16:19–31

INTRODUCTION

- We have to be confronted with the undeniable truth Jesus is sharing with us, that we are all going to face this moment of separation.
- That moment of separation shows the body doesn't matter. The soul, on the other hand, is of infinite value.
- Our soul goes to its ending place in a manner of speaking, to be with, closer to, or farther from and apart from God.

1 Our Lives All Have the Same Ending

Luke 16:19–21; 1 John 3:17

- The rich man and Lazarus could not be more different in how they lived in this world. And yet they had that same ending.
- We are to help anybody and everybody we see and can.
- That moment of separation, body from soul, is the same for every single person in this room and outside of it.

2 Death Brings True Finality

Luke 16:22–26

- The poor man died and was carried by angels to Abraham's bosom.
- Jesus is clear. Death brings finality. We'll either be with God and his servants or apart from them.
- There is that chasm fixed between them. There would be no crossing over.
- Then what I do in the here and now becomes crucial beyond measure.

3 Faith Is My Responsibility

Luke 16:27–31

- What we see in the section we left off from reading is that faith is my responsibility.
- If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.
- But then I remember Jesus was resurrected. Jesus did raise people from the dead. Some refused to believe.
- They have Moses. They have the prophets. Let them hear.

4 God Finds Value in the Least of Us

James 4:6; Psalm 113:5–9

- One of them is to recognize that God finds value in the least of us.

- Who is the positive example? Poor, hungry, hurting Lazarus.
- That tells me I have to turn my radar towards others to be like God's.
- God sees the struggling, the weak, and the needy. And so he helps them.

5 There Are No Valid Excuses

Matthew 7:21

- The sad part of this is there are no valid excuses. Nobody can make you do anything.
- We had no hope. We were Lazarus. I was laying at a gate with no hope, stuck in my sins.
- Not everyone who says to me, Lord will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven will enter.
- It doesn't matter that I know I need to be better. It matters, was I better?

6 Take Every Day Captive

Luke 16:10–13; Ephesians 5:16

- And so on that basis, we must take every day captive.
- One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much.
- I must take every day and every thought captive.
- Am I spending a lot of time doing things that on my deathbed I'll say had no value, no importance?

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **There's only one decision to make. Serve God or don't.**

MY NOTES