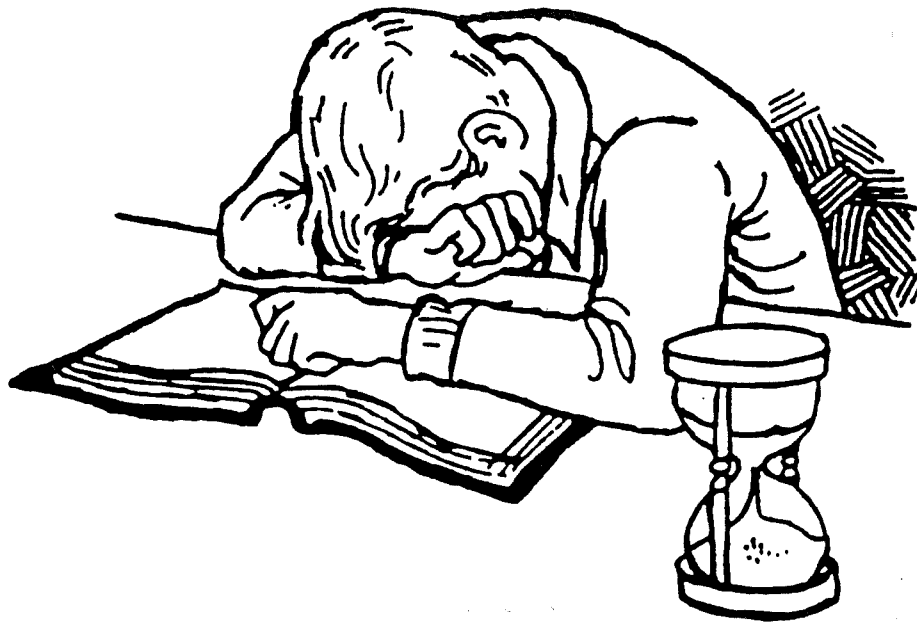


# “TOO” LATE

(How The Rich Man And Lazarus Speak To Us Today)  
Luke 16: 19-31



## THE RICH MAN:

- ◆ His Living
- ◆ His Leaving
- ◆ His Languishing
- ◆ His Legacy

*“...Testify Unto Them, Lest They Also Come Into This Place Of Torment”.*  
*(Luke 16:28)*

Bill Kirk

# “TOO LATE”

**Text: Luke 16:19-31**

## Introduction

1. Luke 16 is a revelation of the burden that Jesus has for people.
2. It follows right on the heels of Luke 15 which includes 3 parables (The lost sheep, The lost silver, The lost son)

(What A Picture Of The Heart Of Jesus As A Prelude In Luke 15)

## The Backdrop Of Luke 15 Proves 3 Absolutes:

### #1. You Will Always Matter To God:

- ◆ The sheep mattered to the shepherd.
- ◆ The coin mattered to the woman.
- ◆ The son mattered to the father.

### #2. Father Always Searches For Someone Lost:

- ◆ The shepherd goes after the sheep.
- ◆ The woman seeks diligently for the coin.
- ◆ The father ran swiftly to the son.

### #3. Retrieval Always Brings Rejoicing:

- ◆ The shepherd doesn't beat the sheep (he rejoices).
- ◆ The woman calls her friends (to rejoice).
- ◆ The father throws a party (and rejoices).

(Then In Luke 16, Two Great Messages)

### #1. The Unjust Steward (v.1-18)

- ◆ How to use our opportunities wisely.
- ◆ How to be faithful with our material possessions.
- ◆ How to be devoted with a single-minded eye.
- ◆ How to be a servant of God or a servant of money.

\*Henry Fielding wrote “Make money your god and it will plague you like the devil”.

### #2. Then The Rich Man And Lazarus (v.19-31)

- ◆ How the veil is drawn back that hangs between the now-and the hereafter.
- ◆ How we get a glimpse of what lies beyond in the next life.
- ◆ How we understand our relationship between living now and living in eternity.

**Question:** Pastor, what's the message of the rich man and Lazarus?

**Question:** What's the picture from Jesus to my heart?

**Question:** Why was one man tormented and one man comforted?

**Question:** Why was the rich man so grief stricken for his loved ones?

**Question:** And what difference does it make in your life and mine?

## I. The "Living" Of The Rich Man

"There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day".

**Question:** How is the life of the rich man described?

**Answer:** In 3 distinct ways:

### #1. "Clothed in purple"

- A. This purple was a true sea purple.
- B. This purple was from a rare dye.
- C. It was scarcely used (except by princes and nobles of high degree).

### #2. "Fine linen"

- A. The fine linen was a dazzling white.
- B. It was worth 6 times its weight in gold.

### #3. "And fared sumptuously every day" (means):

- A. No McDonalds or Burger King for this guy.
- B. No Wendy's or Taco Bell on his menu.
- C. "Fared sumptuously" means banquets were a matter of daily routine for this man:
  - 1. His chambers were filled with servants.
  - 2. His banquet halls were filled with noble guests.
  - 3. No Dine - A - Mate coupons for Dominos Pizza delivery in this man's house.

## (There Was Just One Mistake With The Rich Man)

### What Was It?

- ◆ He was alive - but wasn't really living!
- ◆ He was breathing - but wasn't really functional!
- ◆ He was plush - but wasn't really peaceful!
- ◆ He was around (other Christian people) - but he himself (wasn't really Christian)!

### What A Contrast Before Us

<u>The Rich Man</u>	(vs)	<u>The Poor Man</u>
1. Is elegantly clothed.....		Is a beggar
2. Is sumptuously fed.....		Desires the rich man's crumbs
3. Is healthy.....		Is physically with sores
4. Has social influence.....		Has beggarly isolation
5. Gropes in his wealth.....		Is contented in his poverty
6. Drowns in earthly possessions.....		Seeks treasure in heaven
7. Is selfish and ungodly.....		A sacrificing believer
8. Is cast into hell.....		Is carried off to heaven
9. Is tormented eternally.....		Is comforted eternally
10. Is associated with demons.....		Is a companion with Abraham

## II. The "Leaving" Of The Rich Man

(v.22) "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angles into Abraham's bosom: The rich man also died, and was buried".

**Fact:** What the rich man had never considered, now suddenly happens.

**Fact:** What he had enjoyed so much of, he now has to leave.

**Fact:** What money could buy on earth can now buy nothing in the time of death.

### (I Timothy 6:7 Is Proved Again)

“For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out”.

**Question:** What did the rich man leave?

**Answer:** He left everything he lived for:

- #1. He left his finances all behind.
- #2. He left his food banquets all behind.
- #3. He left his friends all behind.
- #4. He left his fame all behind.
- #5. He left his family all behind.
- #6. He left his fun all behind.
- #7. He left his future all behind (nothing to look forward to ever again).

**Question:** What will happen, when you and I die?

**Question:** Will we leave the best behind us (or will we have the best before us)?

**Question:** Why did the rich man leave the best behind him at death?

**Answer:** Because he didn't own his possessions, instead, his possessions owned him.

**Illustration:** A missionary once told me how the natives caught monkeys in Africa:

- #1. The natives would take a coconut,
- #2. Then drill a hole the size of a quarter in the coconut.
- #3. Then, they would drive a nail in the coconut and attach a chain to it and a tree.
- #4. Monkeys would discover the coconut, slip their hands in the hole, grab the coconut, make a fist and not be able to pull their little hand out of the hole.
- #5. Hunters would approach the monkeys (who would be in a frenzy).
- #6. Yet the monkeys would refuse to let go of the coconut, get caught and end up in soup for the dinner hour.
- #7. The monkeys didn't really have the coconut, but the coconut had the monkeys.

### (The Result?)

- ◆ The monkeys lost not only the coconut, but also lost their life!!!

**Question:** Are there any coconuts in your life?

**Question:** Are your hands in anything that possesses you?

**Question:** Are you consumed with temporal pursuits?

**Question:** Are you grasping something you'll have to leave?

**Question:** Are you distracted by any earthly attractions?

**Question:** Are you giving undue attention to a hobby, a sport, a collection or a pursuit?

**Question:** Are you living for things that you will one day have to let go?

### III. The “Languishing” Of The Rich Man:

(v.23) “And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom”.

(v.24) “I am tormented in this flame”.

(v.25) “Son, remember what you used to have”.

(v.26) “You can't leave and no one can come visit to comfort you now”.

### (What's The Languishing Over?)

- ◆ The word “tormented” means: (uttermost dejection)

**Question:** Why is the rich man utterly dejected?

**Answer:** Because of two sudden realities:

- #1. Dying ends earthly opportunity and activity (yet after death, personality, memory and consciousness continue on).
- #2. Our next life is the result of choices made on this earthly level now.

### (Why The Torment?)

#1. There is “grief” (v.23)

The rich man languishes in torment.

#2. There is “gazing” (v.23)

“The rich man can see Lazarus in heaven.

#3. There is “groaning” (v.24)

The rich man cries out for mercy and relief.

#4. There is “grasping” (v.26)

The rich man can't leave his new place of residence. (There is an uncrossable gulf between)

#5. There is “gone forever” any hope of ever seeing his loved ones again.

The rich man is separated (permanently) from his family (who thought he was rich and famous while on earth).

## IV. The “Legacy” Of The Rich Man:

**Question:** Pastor, what's the provocation in this passage?

**Question:** Pastor, how am I provoked to action?

**Question:** Pastor, what's the burden from the heart of Jesus, to the heart of First Assembly of God?

(v.28) “I have 5 brothers, send Lazarus to testify unto them”. (Why?)  
“Lest they also, come into this place of torment”

### (What Does Jesus Say?)

(v.29) “They have Moses and the prophets, let them hear them”

(v.30) “But if one rose from the dead Lord, my brothers will believe the message”.

(v.31) “Not so rich man, if they hear not Moses and the prophets, there is no hope at all”.

### (What Is Jesus Saying?)

- ◆ Moses and the prophets refer to the law, the prophets message (or) the Word of God.

(In Other Words) ◆ A miracle won't produce faith or convince the 5 brothers.

### (But Instead)

- ◆ Only the Word of God (Moses and the prophets) has the power to convict and convince the human heart.

### (In Other Words)

- ◆ Forget all of your preconceived ideas.
- ◆ Forget all of your objections to the gospel.
- ◆ Forget all of your thoughts about hell.
- ◆ Forget all of you ideas about the grave being the end.
- ◆ Forget all of your doubts whether eternity is real.
- ◆ Forget all of your fears about being rejected when warning lost people.
- ◆ Forget all of your aspirations about laying up treasures on earth.
- ◆ Forget all of your plans about living down here forever.
- ◆ Forget all of your petty distractions that divert your focus.
- ◆ Forget all of your schedules that push God out.
- ◆ Forget all of your thinking that your security is in the stock market, your retirement, your pension plan, your mutual funds, your family inheritance.

### (And Believe the Word Of God) What About It?

- #1. There is a life beyond what we see!
- #2. There is a memory we will possess forever!
- #3. There is a reward for all who were Christian!
- #4. There is a torment for all who were unsaved!
- #5. There is a work to do now in the kingdom.

### (What Is It?)

(Luke 19:10) "For the son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost!!!"

### (Is It All For Real?)

(Revelation 20:12) "And the books were opened, and another book was opened, which is the book of life".

(v.15) "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire".

### Conclusion

The altar call today is to you, but for the 5 brothers who need to be saved:

- #1. Do you care about the ones not ready?
- #2. Will you pray for the ones not yet saved?
- #3. Can you feel the pain that awaits those lost?
- #4. Will you cooperate with God in rescuing the perishing and care for the dying?

### (Last Night I Read Judges 5:23)

"Curse ye Meroz, said the angel of the Lord, curse ye bitterly the inhabitants thereof, (why?) because they came not to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty".

**AMEN!**

**Pastor Bill Kirk**

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