

Sermon Notes

Insights from Luke

#65 – “Rich Man, Poor Man” – Luke 16:19-31

I. Introduction

A. Hell – It’s out of vogue today.

1. Understandable
 - a. Unpleasant
 - b. Better if it did not exist
 - c. Rob Bell

B. Yet, the biblical testimony is clear.

1. Hell is not an occasional topic.
2. Revelation 21:8; 22:15
3. A real place of torment.
4. Modern illustration – the plane crash.
5. One way to escape.
 - a. John 3:36
 - b. Richard Baxter

C. Today’s text

1. Luke 16:19-31
2. Is this a parable, a story or real life?
 - a. John Calvin
3. The numeral “2” is significant.
 - a. Two men – Luke 16:19-21
 - b. Two destinations – Luke 16:22-23
 - c. Two desperate prayers – Luke 16:24-31

II. Exposition

A. Luke 16:19-21

1. Note contrast between the men
 - a. Rich man – opulent lifestyle
 - b. Poor man – extremely poor; probably lame
2. No thought of offering to help – Lev. 19:18
3. “Lazarus” – Greek translation of the Hebrew “Eleazar” meaning “God has helped.”

4. In biblical times, dogs were not domesticated and thought of negatively.

B. Luke 16:22-23

1. Two destinations
 - a. The poor man’s body to the dump
 - b. The rich man to a gala funeral
2. Note that the poor man’s name is recalled, while the rich man’s is not given.
3. At Abraham’s side – not because he was poor but because he had faith in God as did Abraham.
4. Hades – a holding tank while waiting final judgment.

C. Luke 16:24-25

1. Two desperate prayers
2. The rich man knows Abraham like the Pharisees – Luke 3:8.
3. The need for mercy, but at a late date.
4. Abraham’s response – The rich man rebuffed.
 - a. Note Jesus’ prior teaching – Luke 16:9.

D. Luke 16:26

1. A neighborhood of sorts
2. C. S. Lewis – *The Great Divorce*

E. Luke 16:27-31

1. Rich man’s concern shifts to his family.
 - a. Still dictatorial toward the poor man.
2. The heart of unbelief
 - a. They will not believe the Scripture. Miracles, including a resurrection, will not work.
 1. John 5:46-57

III. Points for Reflection

- A. Shocked to find themselves in Hell.
- B. Hell – the place you do not want to visit.
- C. Use of our wealth in this life is very revealing of our true spiritual state.
- D. Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.