

“The Parables of Jesus: The Rich Man and Lazarus”

Luke 16:14-31

- Why did Jesus speak in parables? Matthew 13:10-17
 - The parables revealed truth or helped explain a truth to those who desired to hear. They also kept people from understanding who were hostile or indifferent to the truth.
 - A parable is an earthly story that has a spiritual meaning. They are only beneficial for those who have spiritual discernment (1 Corinthians 2:13-14).
- The Pharisees:
 - They loved money instead of loving God and men. They loved the praise of men instead of living to please God. They strived for worldliness instead of striving for godliness.
 - *“But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”* (Luke 14:12-14)
 - *“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”* (Luke 6:35-36)
 - *“My brothers, show no partiality as you hold faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.”* (James 2:1 & 9)
- Overview of the text:
 - There was, and always has been a belief, that riches is a sign of being blessed by God. This is not the case. In fact the Lord says it is difficult for a rich person to be saved (Mark 8:36 & 10:23-26). The Lord makes the poor and rich for His sovereign purposes (1 Samuel 2:7; 1 Chronicles 29:12).
 - Poverty will always be among us (Matthew 26:11). Poverty is an example to us that the worst suffering in this life is only a drop in the ocean of the sufferings of Hell, so repent and receive the kindness of God (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 & 2:10). Riches are an example to us that the richest person in the world, and all his satisfactions, comforts, and joys are simply a drop in the ocean of the satisfaction, comfort, and joy eternally with Christ; so therefore, be willing to forsake it for treasure eternally (Mark 8:34-37; Matthew 6:19-21).
 - In Hell there is no relief, there is no mercy, there is only anguish and torment. Religiousness doesn't save; Power doesn't save; Fame doesn't save; Suffering in this life doesn't save; Riches do not save; Miracles do not save; only by repenting of our sins and trusting in the work of Christ shall we be saved. It is by the Word of God that men and women are saved (Romans 10:14-17; Romans 5:8-11; 1 Corinthians 1:30-31).
 - The marks of a saved person is meeting the needs of our suffering brothers and sisters in Christ (1 John 3:16-18), practicing self-denial (Luke 14:27 & 33), having mercy because of receiving mercy (James 2:13), hearing and responding to the Word of God (James 1:22-25), and using our resources for the glory of God....
 - Support your family (1 Timothy 5:8).
 - Support the spreading of the gospel, locally and globally (1 Timothy 5:17).
 - Meeting the needs of the suffering saints (James 2:14-17).
 - The spiritual riches of Christ are more than sufficient to have contentment and joy in the most dire circumstances of this world. In the same way, all the riches of this world do nothing to relieve us of the sufferings of an eternal Hell.

Worship: All People That on Earth Do Dwell (Various Artists)

How Deep (Kings Kaleidoscope)

Service Times: Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;

Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7