

“Things Accomplished Among Us” (Luke 1:1)

Selected Reflections From Luke

If A Man Die, Will He Live Again?

Luke 16

Luke gives us this narrative in chapter 16.

¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side.^[a] The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ ²⁷ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house— ²⁸ for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

It has been observed, this is the only passage in the Bible which describes the emotions of someone after death. The rich man, from torment, spoke. “Have mercy on me.” He begged for relief but was assured there would be no relief. He was told, “between us and you, a great chasm has been fixed.”

Given this, another appeal was made. *Send a warning to my family! In fact, let them witness a miracle!*

Abraham said, "They have Moses and the Prophets, let them hear them." And, "If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead."

"The rich man's desire that his brothers repent indicates that he had discovered that he was not in torment because he was rich, but because **he had failed to repent...**" {Donald G. Miller, THE LAYMAN'S BIBLE COMMENTARY, p.124}

What keeps people from eternal torment? What gracious provision enables people to respond to God and be perfectly blessed after death? **Hearing and responding to God's Word.**

-Warren E. Berkley