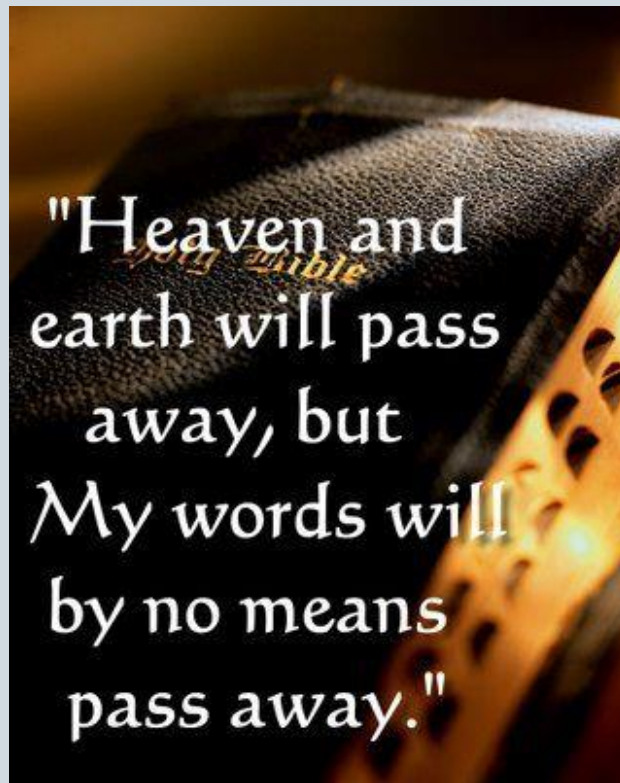




“HEAVEN AND EARTH WILL PASS AWAY, BUT MY WORDS WILL BY NO MEANS PASS AWAY.” (MATT. 24:35)

Lessons from Rich Man and Lazarus

LUKE 16:19-31

Luke 16:19-23

“There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. 20 But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, 21 desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. 23 And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Why the Rich Man went to Hades and Lazarus to Abraham's bosom?

The Rich Man

- Was it his money?
- “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil...” (1 Tim. 6:10)
- He was merciless
- He was aware of Lazarus' condition
- Lesson #1: Being unmerciful may jeopardize my eternal salvation
- Mercy = compassion or forgiveness shown towards someone whom it is within one's power to punish



Why the Rich Man went to Hades and Lazarus to Abraham's bosom?

Lazarus

- Was it because he was a poor beggar?
- He bore his condition without complaining, rebelling, or resentment.
- EX: Church in Smyrna
 - "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."
(Rev. 2:10)
- Lesson #2: Faithfulness in the midst of hardship may qualify us for eternal life



Abraham's bosom

God identified His kingdom by His servant Abraham

Lesson #3: God wants to honor us and give us what is His

- "And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one..." (Jn. 17:20)



Luke 16:24-26

Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' 25 But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. 26 And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'

Why does the Rich Man ask Abraham to send Lazarus to provide relief?

This is what he was accustomed to while in the flesh

Lesson #4: The desires of one's heart will only be magnified in eternity, but not changed

- Prepare for eternity now
- "See that you walk circumspectly, redeeming the time, because the days are evil." (Eph. 5:15-16)

Consider how Abraham addresses the Rich Man – "son"

Lesson #5: There is no place for resentment or vengeance in the kingdom of heaven

Lesson #6: There will be justice in the afterlife

Luke 16:27-31

27 “Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, 28 for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’ 29 Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ 30 And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ 31 But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’ ”

Send a Messenger

What might Lazarus say to his father's house?

- Being merciless and cruel will lead to perdition – Law and prophets say the same
- "Do good or else..." – not the message of the gospel (good news)

What are the Law and Prophets?

- Law = written word of God
- Prophets = those who proclaim the word of God verbally

Lesson #7: God wants His word to lead us to repentance and love for Him through His Church

They need a miracle

The Rich Man pleads for Lazarus to rise from the dead

Abraham explains that if a person does not heed the Law and Prophets he/she will not believe/change because of a miracle

Consider the name Lazarus

Christ Himself rose from the dead, but they did not believe

Lesson #8: Our faith and love for God should not be based on miracles or supernatural assistance

Summary

1. Being unmerciful may jeopardize my eternal salvation
2. Faithfulness in the midst of hardship may qualify us for eternal life
3. God wants to honor us and give us what is His
4. The desires of one's heart will only be magnified in eternity, but not changed
5. There is no place for resentment or vengeance in the kingdom of heaven
6. There will be justice in the afterlife
7. God wants His word to lead us to repentance and love for Him through His Church
8. Our faith and love for God should not be based on miracles or supernatural assistance