

104.35. BIG, RICH & DEAD

There was a rich man who was dressed in fine purple linen & lived in luxury & at his gate laid a beggar, named Lazarus, covered with sores & longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table & even the dogs came & licked his sores.

The time came when the beggar died & the angels carried him to Abraham's side, the rich man also died & was buried & in Hades, where he was in deep torment.

The rich man looked up & saw Abraham far away, with the beggar by his side & he called to him, Father Abraham, have pity on me & send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water & cool my tongue, as I am in agony in this fire. But Abraham replied, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad, but now he is comforted & you are in agony & now between us in paradise & those in hell, is a great chasm that cannot be crossed over.

He said, then I beg you, send Lazarus to my family, for I have 5 brothers, let him warn them, so that they will not come to this place of torment. Abraham replied, they know of Moses & the prophets; let them listen to them & the man said, but they won't, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will believe & repent.

Lazarus said, if they don't listen to Moses & the prophets, they will not be convinced, even if someone rises from the dead.

This parable is designed to force us, to reflect on how we treat people, the rich man is nameless, so that we can place ourselves in his shoes, as we are richer than we know.

The story of the rich man & Lazarus should lead us to the question: How do we treat those in need?

The rich man knew Lazarus, he asked for him by name, he knew he was in need, yet he refused to help, or even to give him the scraps from his table & now the tables are turned.

So how do you treat people? Do you have resources & refuse to share? Is your heart hardened towards those in need?

The way we treat others shows which direction we will take & it's not too late, if you have found yourself on the wrong side, as unlike the rich man, who refused to repent, we can still find the life that we were meant to have.

Like the poor man referenced here I fully believe that my mother's spirit is in God's care in Paradise, as she was a saved believer & Jesus tells us, in 2 Corinthians 5:8, that to be absent from the body, is to be with the Lord, which is an awesome gift.

So, God came to me one beautiful day & stopped me in my tracks, as He asked me the following; If you could give anything to your mother, or any other deceased family, or friend, what would it be?

I pondered this for a moment & God asked me; So what would she want more than anything? and then He gave me the answer, which carries much accountability, because what she would want more than anything, would be to see her family & friends, in & for eternity with her.

So we must become accountable & must realize that this puts the burden of others salvation on us, as many of those whom my mother would like to see, I have not spoken with about the importance of recognizing, admitting & repenting of their sins & accepting Christ as their savior, so that they could one day be reunited, with their mother, Grandmother, family member, or friend.

All's I could think of was wow, to think that we can really give a missed loved one, such a special gift; as there is something we can take to heaven with us, which is a loved one's eternal spirit, through loving them enough, to show them the truth about being saved, through Jesus Christ, for eternal life.