

After Life

Session 6

Today's Question:

What about the rich man and Lazarus?

When we die...

1. Our spirit (life force) leaves our body
2. Our body goes away (to dust)
3. Our soul “sleeps”
4. Our soul is raised
5. Our soul is either..
 - a. wrapped in a new “immortal” body
 - b. destroyed

Problem Words

sheol

hades

tartarus

gehenna

Problem Words

לואש

ᾶδης

ταρταρόω

γέεννα

Problem Words

- **sheol & hades**: “realm of the dead”
- **tartarus**: not sure (but not “hell”)
- **gehenna**: “hell”

- **IF...** we don't go right to heaven, but to sheol after we die
- **AND...** "sheol" is a place of sleep
- **AND...** both the good and bad people go there
- **THEN...**

What about the
rich man and
Lazarus?



Context

Context

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Luke ch.13 - ch.16

Luke 13:22-25

“Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem...”

What was the question?

Q: “How many are going to be saved?”

A: “A time will come when you can’t get in anymore.”

Luke 13:26-28

“I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!...”

The point?

It's too late for them.

They've blown it.

Luke 13:34-35

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you...”

Luke 14:1-14

- Sabbath at the Pharisees house
- Jesus heals a crippled man

Luke 14:15-24

“A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests....”

Luke 14:15-24

“...the poor, the crippled,
the blind and the lame.”

Luke 14:25-15:32

- The cost of being a disciple
- The lost sheep
- The lost coin
- The lost son

Luke 16:1-15

- “... You cannot serve both God and Money.”
- “The Pharisees, **who loved money**, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus.”

Luke 16:15-18

- Importance of the “Law and the Prophets”
- Divorce & remarriage

So far Jesus has said...

- There is a point of no return.
- Repentance is importance and **POSSIBLE**.
- Called the Pharisees out on their love of money
- Then he drives the point home...

Rich Man and Lazarus

“There was a rich man...”

“At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus...”

Is this talking about Hell?

- Look at vs. 23: “hell”
 - **SHOULD** be “hades”
 - **ONLY** time NIV translates it “hell”
- Another problem?
 - vs 27: “...send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers.”

WHATEVER else it says,
this is **NOT** a picture of
Hell.

- Wrong words
- Wrong concepts
- Wrong facts

Is this talking about Hades?

- Is there a smoking section and a non-smoking section in hades?
 - But hades is **pre-judgement!**
 - If yes, **What's the point of judgement?**
- This **does not fit** with the scriptural picture of hades

If it's **not** talking about hell,
and **not** a picture of hades,
why is it there?

Who's He talking to?

- **Pharisees & Chief Priests**
 - “...purple and fine linen...”
 - **Possibly** referring to Caiaphas himself!
 - “...send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers.”
 - “Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be good if one man died for the people.” John 18:14

What's this parable about?

- *Jesus is saying:*
 - “Please repent and come away from your love of money before it's too late!”

What's with the imagery?

- Jesus may be using cultural stories to make a point
 - Many themes similar to Jewish & Egyptian stories of the time
 - Very similar to inter-testamental writings (lots of afterlife themes)

What about the names?

- When a story has names, it feels more “real”
 - **Lazarus**
 - Mary & Martha’s brother?
 - John 12:10
 - **Abraham**
 - “bosom of Abraham” used often in Jewish stories (Luke 13:29)
 - Jews would not assume this to be literal

It's not about the afterlife

- **It's a warning:** You don't have forever.
- **It's a literary device:** an allegory - not intended to be taken literally

The lesson for us:

- What do we need to repent of?
- Don't wait until it's too late!

