

**October 20, 2019 – Luke 16:21-24; 30-31 (NIV)**

**THEME: Why Read, Mark, Learn & Inwardly Digest God's Word?**

*“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’ ..... No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”*

When we die, when I die, we will find ourselves immediately either in heaven or in hell. There is no half way in between. There is no such thing as souls wandering around in the desert or living in the trees or in the forest or in the swamp. There is no place called purgatory.

Not only does this section of Scripture from Luke 16:21-31 teach us this, but we also learn this in **Ecclesiastes 12:7** – *“The dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.”*

In this section of Scripture, we hear about a Rich man and Poor Lazarus. We see in this section of Scripture that both the Rich man and poor Lazarus die. Death has no boundaries, no limits. Regardless of whether someone is wealthy or poor, death will come, unless of course Jesus returns before we die. Regardless of age whether it be an Infant or elderly person, whether strong or weak, whether male or female, regardless of skin color – death does not discriminate!

As we see the Rich man in hell, and Poor Lazarus in heaven, we learn that at our death, On The Last Day, On Judgment Day – There is no DEBATE! God's judgment is final. There are some interesting comparisons in this section of Scripture:

1. Lazarus begins as the beggar. The Rich man ends as the beggar
2. Lazarus is carried to heaven by the Angels of the God, The Rich dies and is buried and is in hell.
3. On Earth the Rich man is clothed in fine linen and purple while Lazarus is clothed with sores.
4. While on earth the rich man finds comfort in his wealth, and Lazarus is comforted by dogs licking his sores.

Even though we learn secondary points from this section of Scripture, Jesus is trying to make ONE MAIN Point! The MAIN POINT is given at the end of this discourse by our Lord Jesus.

**Vs. 31 - *‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”***

The WORD OF GOD – Listening to God's Word, studying God's Word that is the Main Point! The Word of God is the TOOL that God uses to create saving faith in the heart of unbelieving mankind. God used His Word to create the universe. God gives us His Word to tell us where we come from, what we are doing here, why we have problems in the world, Who our Savior is, and How we have eternal life in heaven.

In the Gospel of John we learn the importance of God's Word. **John 20:31** – **These words are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His Name.**

Do not stop reading, hearing and studying God's Word. And as you demonstrate your love for others, tell them about their Savior Jesus. AMEN