

“DIVES & LAZARUS”

I. [Luke 16:19-31](#) & [Romans 4:1-8 & 23-25](#)

A. A lot of beloved people we know have passed away in the past few weeks...

- 1) Maybe it's made you think more about your own death...
- 2) Maybe it's made you think more about eternal life... (Heaven and hell)

B. I am very skeptical about what are called, *near death experiences*...

- 1) With resuscitation devices & methodologies many folks have apparently died clinically and then were brought back to life... (My Dad flatlined once...)
- 2) Many have amazing stories to tell. Numerous books have been written.
- 3) Heb. 9:27 is a verse I can't get past: *"it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes the judgment..."*

C. Luke 16:19-31 Jesus peels back the veil of what happens when people die...

- 1) Some believe it's a parable, others do not. Frankly it doesn't matter.
- 2) Jesus' account trumps all near-death-experience stories--period.
- 3) These 13 verses are jam packed--13 life and death verses. Study them!
- 4) Let the truth of God's Word triumph over cultural beliefs, superstitions, and unBiblical tales. Don't let *Touched by an Angel*, *Ghost Whisperer* form your theology.

D. Luke 16:19-31 is about contrasts and they are powerful contrasts...

- 1) Dives was rich. Lazarus was poor. Dives was not wicked because he was wealthy and Lazarus was not righteous because he was poor... (*Those, however, in right standing/right relationship with God will indeed care about the poor.*)
- 2) Abraham's side (bosom) or Paradise is the place where the righteous dead await their ultimate vindication... Hades is the place where the wicked dead await judgment and ultimately hell. There's a fixed chasm between the two places...
- 3) Dives wasn't in anguish because he was rich--it was because his heart had rejected God--he was too selfish and proud to have any compassion on the poor.
- 4) Dives tries to persuade Abraham to send Lazarus to his five brothers who apparently had also turned their backs on God. Abraham says if they reject God's Word they will not believe someone who returns from the dead. Jesus proves this out!

E. So how did Lazarus end up with Abraham? How did he end up in Paradise?

- 1) Was it because he was poor? Because he was hungry? All those sores?
- 2) Or was it because he shared Abraham's same faith and righteousness?
- 3) If Lazarus shared Abraham's same righteousness, by what means did it come? Did it come by good works or by the gift of faith? Let's go back to the Word...

F. Romans 4:1-8 & 23-25 Paul answers our questions...

- 1) Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.
- 2) *V23-25 The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.* Check out Gal. 3:6-9 & Gal. 3:26-29...

G. Let me sound like an old time preacher: Are you ready to die? Loved ones?

- 1) For Dives, life here was as good as it would ever get. He reached his apex here. (Wealth, renown, trophies, power, and popularity--all stay...)
- 2) For Lazarus, life here was as bad as it would ever get. He reached his apex on Abraham's side. There's bigger and better everything there!

* Close with with quote by Charles Spurgeon and Prayer...

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Luke 16:19-31 (ESV)

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. 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.’”

Romans 4:1-8 & 23-25 (NIV)

1 What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? **2** If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. **3** What does the Scripture say? *“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”* **4** Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. **5** However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness. **6** David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: **7** *“Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.”* **8** *Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him.”* ... **23** The words *“it was credited to him”* were written not for him alone, **24** but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. **25** He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Galatians 3:6-9 (NIV)

6 Consider Abraham: “He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” **7** Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. **8** The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” **9** So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Galatians 3:26-29 (NIV)

26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, **27** for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. **28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **29** If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Quote by Charles H. Spurgeon

Ay, and so it is with the wicked man nowadays. He gets rich, but what is the use of being wealthy if you must be damned? Fool that he is, if he buys a gold coffin, how would that help him? Suppose he is laid out with a bag of gold in each hand, and a pile of it between his legs, how will that help him? Others seek to get learning, but what is the good of learning if you sink to perdition with it? Take up the learned man’s skull, and what is the difference between that and the skull of the merest pauper that scarcely knew his letters? Brown unpalpable powder, they both crumble down into the same elements. To die in a respectable position, what is the use of it? What are a few more plumes on the hearse, or a longer line of mourning coaches? Will these ease the miseries of Tophet? Ah! friends, you have to die. Why not make ready for the inevitable? Oh! if men were wise, they would see that all earth’s joys are just like the bubbles which our children blow with soap; they glitter and they shine, and then they are gone, and there is not even a wreck left behind.

Some Great Youtube Clips

Lazarus and the Rich Man VFX

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWpxuGCD9gI>

"Dives and Lazarus" (Old English Folk Song) by Martin Simpson

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8p1yZYmKhY>

Is the Rich Man and Lazarus a Parable? -The Late Dr. J. Vernon McGee

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqcrK16jK00>

"Lazarus and the Rich Man" (Bluegrass Tune) by Larry Sparks
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80CUXcZeigM>

The Parable of The Rich Man and Lazarus--Sermon by D. A. Carson
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVymsFxyQSc>

"A Pilgrim's Conflict With Sloth" A Poem by John Piper
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NC5ey9_wWwQ

Basketball Player With Down Syndrome Hits Two 3-Pointers
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6ZgRdSViQ0>

Bonus Stuff

"Where is hell?" was the question once asked by a scoffer. Brief but telling was the reply, "Anywhere outside of heaven." - Unknown

Contrasts

(Regarding Luke 16:19-31) by H. J. Wilmot Buxton

This parable is full of sharp contrasts.

1. There is the contrast in the life of these two men. The one rich, the other a beggar. The rich man had great possessions, yet one thing he lacked, and that was the one thing needful. Lazarus, the beggar, was after all the truly rich man, "as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."
2. Next, there is a contrast in the death of these two men.
3. And there is a contrast in the after time for these two men. The rich man was buried, doubtless, with great pomp. Some of us have seen such funerals. What extravagance and display take the place of reverent resignation and quiet grief! Of the beggar's burial place we know nothing.
4. But the sharpest contrast of all is in the world beyond, from which for a moment Jesus draws back the veil.

A Preacher from the Dead

by Charles H. Spurgeon

Luke 16:19-31 "There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day..."

I. First, it is thought that if one did come from the dead to preach, there would be A CONFIRMATION OF THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL, and a testimony borne at which jeering infidelity would stand aghast in silence. Stop, we will see about that.

1. If, my friends, the testimony of one man who had been raised from the dead were of any value for the confirming of the gospel, would not God have used it before now? Now, God knoweth best; we will not compare our surmises to Divine decision. If God decided that resurrection men should be silent, it was best it should be; their testimony would have been of little worth or help to us, or else it would have been borne.

2. But again, I think it will strike our minds at once, that if this very day a man should rise from his tomb, and come here to affirm the truth of the gospel, the infidel world would be no more near believing than it is now. Infidelity would still cry for something more. It is like the horse-leech; it crieth, "Give, give!"

3. And besides, my friends, if men will not believe the witness of God, it is impossible that they should believe the witness of man.

II. It is imagined, however, that if one of "the spirits of the just made perfect" would come to earth, even if he did not produce a most satisfactory testimony to the minds of sceptics, HE WOULD YET BE ABLE TO GIVE ABUNDANT

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN. Surely he would have brought down with him some handfuls of the clusters of Eshcol; he would have been able to tell us some celestial secrets, which would have cheered our hearts, and nerved us to run the heavenly race, and put a cheerful courage on. Nothing more could we know that would be of any use. Tattlers, idle curiosity people, and such like, would be mightily delighted with such a man. Ah! what a precious preacher he would be to them, if they could get him all the way from heaven, and get him to tell all its secrets out! But there the matter would end. It would be merely the gratification of curiosity; there would be no conferring of blessing; for if to know more of the future state would be a blessing for us, God would not withhold it; there can be no more told us. If what you know would not persuade you, "Neither would you be persuaded though one rose from the dead."

III. Yet some say, "SURELY, IF THERE WERE NO GAIN IN MATTER, YET THERE WOULD BE A GAIN IN MANNER. Oh, if such a spirit had descended from the spheres, how would he preach? What eloquence celestial would flow from his lips!" I do believe that Lazarus from Abraham's bosom would not be so good a preacher as a man who has not died, but whose lips have been touched with a live coal from off the altar. Instead of his being better, I cannot see that he would be quite so good. Could a spirit from the other world speak to you more solemnly than Moses and the prophets have spoken? Or could they speak more solemnly than you have heard the word spoken to you at divers times already? Ah! but you say, you want some one to preach to you more feelingly. Then, sir, you cannot have him in the preacher you desire. A spirit from heaven could not be a feeling preacher. It would be impossible for Lazarus, who had been in Abraham's bosom, to preach to you with emotion. Such a preacher could not be a powerful preacher, even though he came again from the dead. - CHS