Five Brothers In Danger

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday February 25th, 2018

Text: Luke 16:27-28, 30

### Intro

1. *Luke 16:19-31:* The account of the rich man and Lazarus the poor man
   1. Both died and went somewhere together, but far apart: one in bliss and the other in torment, and both separated by an un-crossable chasm!
   2. Jesus made clear: Both men physically died; Both men (even after death) were still living in some form with their consciousness in tact!
2. The rich man, in torments, was feeling pain and regret!
   1. *Lk. 16:23-24:* He could see, feel, speak, and hear!
   2. *Lk. 16:24-26:* He could experience thirst (asked for Lazarus to bring him water – told there was an un-crossable chasm (KJV: “gulf”)
3. The rich man then expressed concern for his family, his five brothers:
   1. Lk. 16:27-28, 30: Send Lazarus to them “so that they will not also come to this place of torment” (vs. 24: “agony in this flame”) for “if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!” (16:30) – Lazarus, brother to Mary and Martha, proved otherwise (John 12:9-11); and Jesus raising from the dead proved otherwise (Mt. 28:11-15).
   2. This man’s five brothers were in danger and he wanted them warned!
4. Old Adage: “Misery loves company” – except in torments awaiting judgment *(Lk. 16:24),* and in Hell *(Mt. 25:41)!*
5. What these five brothers in danger had mirrors what the lost of the world has today!

#### Five Brothers In Danger – What They Had:

* 1. Had A Brother In Torments
     1. Lk. 16:22-24: Their brother was the rich man who died and was in “torments” and in “agony in this flame.”
     2. Perhaps at their brother’s funeral they, like so many religious people today, thought “He is with God now!” He was most likely a Jew and so would of course go to Heaven!
     3. Many people today have relatives “in torments” that they probably are not even aware of!
     4. The Scriptures plainly teach there is a separation at death and an eternal one at the Judgment Day *(Mt. 25:31-46) – No excuse for not knowing & not being prepared!*
  2. Had Sins Not Repented Of
     1. Lk. 16:28, 30: Their brother, the rich man in torments, knew they needed to repent, which suggests they may have been living similar to him (16:19, 25)!
     2. Lk. 13:3, 5: Unless one repents they will die in their sins (Jn. 8:24)
     3. Rev. 2:5: Members of the church at Ephesus (2:1) were told to repent or their lampstand would be removed (no longer belong to Jesus)!
     4. It is a scary thing to face the Lord unrepentant! (Rev. 20:11-15)
  3. Had A Brother In Torments That Could Not Repent For Them
     1. Lk. 16:30: Their brother the rich man wanted them warned badly enough he wanted Lazarus sent from the dead so that they would repent! His knowledge of such a terrible place and regret over his life could not save them!
     2. Acts 2:38; 17:30; 26:19-20: “God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent” (Jews & Gentiles)!
     3. II Pet. 3:9: God doesn’t wish “for any to perish but for all to come to repentance!” *(Acts 2:38: Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins)*
     4. No one else can do it for those who need to repent *(II Cor. 5:10)* – they must repent and perform “deeds appropriate to repentance” (Acts 26:20)
     5. Acts 8:22; I Jn. 1:9: Confess sins to God (II Sam. 12:13)--He will forgive you!
  4. Had Moses And The Prophets
     1. Lk. 16:29: “But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.'”
     2. The five brothers had the same information available to them that the rich man had in life and chose to ignore (Mt. 15:7-9).
     3. II Tim. 3:16-17: Scriptures equip one “for every good work”
     4. II Pet. 3:1-2: Peter said to “remember the words spoken beforehand by the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior spoken by your apostles”
  5. Had Ability To Hear & Obey
     1. Lk. 16:29: “… let them hear them”
     2. The five brothers had the same chances to hear and obey the word of God as their rich brother in torments!
     3. James 1:21: “…in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls” then be a doer of the word, not just a hearer (Js. 1:22-25).
     4. Rom. 1:5 *(1:1-7):* Paul said his job as an apostle was “to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake…” (II Cor. 10:5)
     5. Rom. 6:16-18: We are slaves to what we obey – sin or righteousness!
     6. Lk. 16:31: “If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead” – True of the lost today! (Acts 2:22-24, 32-36)
  6. Had A Death To Meet
     1. Lk. 16:30: Their brother the rich man was worried they would meet his fate if they did not repent by the time they too died!
     2. Heb. 9:27: It is appointed for men to die once then judgment! Death comes to all (the rich and poor – Lk. 16:22)!
  7. Had A Judgment To Face
     1. Lk. 16:23: Hades, the receptacle of the dead, where even angels await the judgment (II Pet. 2:4 *“Tartaros”* for “hell”: deep abyss of Hades; Jude 6)
     2. Jn. 5:28-29: A day will come when all in the tombs *(G3420: “a place of internment”)* will hear His voice and enter their eternal suffering or rest after judgment *(Mt. 25:31-46; Rev. 20:11-15).*
     3. Rev. 20:11-15: Death and Hades are thrown into “the lake of fire” (Hell) – emptied on the great Day of Judgment *(Mt. 25:31-46).*
     4. II Cor. 5:9-11: Knowing there is a Judgment Day awaiting us all, saints are to “persuade men” (teach the gospel) and keep ourselves holy (II Pet. 3:10-12)!
  8. The rich man’s five brothers were in danger and he wanted them warned – all the lost of the world are in the same danger and need to be warned while there is still a chance!

## Conclusion

1. The lost of the world are like the rich man’s 5 brothers – they have God’s word and need to hear it and obey it to avoid eternal torments!
2. Our souls will live on forever – in one of two very different places! *(Mt. 25:34, 41, 46)*
3. When we die, the time for change is over – either we will enter Paradise to meet Lazarus and Abraham or into *Tartaros* with false teachers and disobedient angels to await final judgment! *(Luke 16:22-23; II Pet. 2:4, 9; Jude 6; Rev. 20:11-15) – All need to prepare for eternity!*
4. Nothing better than to enter eternal bliss, and nothing worse than to enter eternal torments!
5. Where will your soul reside for eternity? Will the angels bear you away to bliss or will you awake in torments?
6. Like the rich man’s five brothers, the lost need to hear & obey the word of God!
7. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent of your sins and be baptized! *(Acts 2:38)*
8. If a Christian in error, Repent live in holy and godly conduct! *(II Pet. 3:11)*
9. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!