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Luke 16:19-31

19. “Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day.

20. And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores,

21. and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man’s table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores.

22. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.

23. In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom.

24. And he cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.’

25. But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony.

26. ‘And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over

from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.’

27. And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father’s house--

28. for I have five brothers--in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

29. But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’

30. But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’

31. But he said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’”

Often times in personal Bible study I’m asked, “What happens when you die?” Hebrews 9:27 states, “And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.” The word “death” itself means “separation”. At physical death the three component parts of a human being are separated. Your body returns to the earth, your spirit returns to God, and your soul goes to either Paradise or Hades to await the Great White Throne Judgment.

In our text this morning, Luke 16:19-31, Jesus reveals what happened to the souls of Lazarus and the rich man after they died. Notice the rich man’s situation in verses 23 and 24. The rich man could see, and recognized

Abraham and Lazarus. Also he could speak, and thirst, and had feeling. Verse 25 indicates he could hear and understand Abraham. Verse 27 reveals he could remember his past life, and that he had five brothers still living on earth.

From this passage we understand that we have consciousness, and our senses and self-awareness are intact. And we all evidently retain a recognizable form even after our soul leaves our body at physical death.

Three weeks ago today my mom died. She was a great mom, and she loved and sacrificed for her family all her life. But she never obeyed the gospel. Like the rich man in Luke 16, she doesn't want any of her loved ones to go to the place where she is now. She is rooting for me, her oldest son, to warn everybody I can to believe, repent, and obey the gospel of Jesus Christ before it is too late!

As Jesus proclaimed: "Do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in Hell."

Matthew 10:28

Jesus has risen; we need to repent!