

Sunday, July 24, 2022
WHO SITS AT YOUR GATE?

Luke 16:19-31 (NKJV)

With money comes spiritual responsibility.

Notice a few things about this parable:

1. The rich man had more than he needed.

Now, you don't have to be "rich" for this to apply to you. In answer to the question "what is the greatest commandment?" Jesus responded: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" // Luke 10:27

When asked, "who is my neighbor?", Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan. Now, we aren't told that the Samaritan was rich. We are told that he used what he had to help someone in need. When Jesus asked, "who was a neighbor to the one who fell among robbers?", this was Jesus' response:

The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." // Luke 10:37

2. A man in need was in his "orbit".

A beggar, Lazarus was at his gate. Who sits at your gate?

3. The rich man apparently did nothing for Lazarus.

This is a major point in this story because in eternity, the rich man wanted help from Lazarus but didn't receive it.

4. As far as we know, the rich man went to hell for no other reason than he didn't help Lazarus.

Okay, there were "idols" that were root causes of his entry into hell:

Selfishness. Lack of compassion. Failure to understand the responsibility of his station. Did this man attend synagogue? Did he go to temple and sacrifice? Did he study Torah? Probably. Why? *He was held responsible for the teachings he knew.* His cry? Send Lazarus to my father's house – to my brothers so that they can learn this teaching and obey it! The answer? These teachings are clear in the Word.

But, they will repent if someone who rises from the dead teaches tells them! Answer? If they don't listen know they will not listen even if someone rises from the dead. Truth? Someone who has risen from the dead brings this teaching to you. Do you follow it? Or, are you riddled with selfishness, a lack of compassion, a failure to understand the responsibilities of your station? Or, maybe you don't recognize the King and Priest of God Most High who has met you? Abram, father of the faithful, recognized Him and gave Him a tithe of all.

Rich people can be a great blessing. Do you feel the need to lavish yourself so that we can all see that you are one of the "favored" one? Remember the parable of the Rich Fool?

[Luke 12:16-21 \(NKJV\)](#)

Do you remember the story of the Rich Ruler?

[Luke 18:24-27 \(NKJV\)](#)

Do you remember the repentance of Zacchaeus?

[Luke 19:8-10 \(NKJV\)](#)

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