

**The Kingdom Of God  
IV  
(Repenting)**

**(8 16 09)**

# The Backdrop

- **Luke 16:19-21**

There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

- **Mansion with gate**

- **Very rich man who lived in luxury**

- Dressed in purple & fine linen
- Had best food, servants, transportation, etc.

- **At the gate, laid Lazarus the beggar**

- Real and not fake (e.g. Dogs)
- Was laid there
- Longing for food from rich man's table (i.e. Trash & Cambodia)
- Note: Known by God

# The Backdrop

- **Luke 16:22**

The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried.

## Both died:

- **Rich man most likely**

- Had an extravagant burial in beautiful tomb
- Covered with best linen
- Many came to funeral with long procession
- Prominent men chosen to be the pall bearers

- **Lazarus**

- Bible did not mentioned a burial
- Did not have long earthly procession
- However, the angels were his pall bearers
  - Carried him not to tomb, but to Abraham's side

# The Rich Man

- **Luke 16:23-24**

In hell, where he (rich man) 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.'

- **Is this saying that a rich man can not enter Kingdom of God?**

- **NO. Abraham was there.**
- **Bible says that it is hard for rich man to enter (Mat 19:23)**
- **Why? Answer in 1Tim 6:9-10**
- **People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith...**

# The Rich Man

• How do we know that was the description of the rich man?

- He was consumed by his wealth

- Real need:

- Lazarus lying at his gates with sores

- He did not care for him (Mat 25)

  - Take up your inheritance, the kingdom

  - Hungry, thirsty, stranger, clothes, sick, prison

- He did not show love (Mark 12:34)

# Lazarus

**Is this story saying that only poor men can enter kingdom?**

- **No... Established with Abraham**
- **Important to know Word of God**
- **Mat 5:3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”**
  - **Like a beggar who needs God (food)**
  - **Can't do it anymore on my own.**
    - **Requires humility**
    - **God resists proud (James 4:6)**

# The Kingdom Within

- **Luke 16:25**

But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony.’”

- True that life after death for Christians is glorious
- True that some may face major life challenges
- But not an all encompassing truth
  - Psalm says that it rains on righteous and unrighteous
- Luke 17:20-21 - Kingdom of God is within you.
- Rom 14:17 - Kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy.
- We can enter into His Kingdom while living on this earth
  - Can have righteousness, peace, and joy no matter what
  - 1Thes 5:16-18 “Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances..”

# Bridging the Gap

- **Luke 16:26-30 (Abraham continues)**

And besides all this between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.

He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father's house, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

v. 26 – Great chasm separating comfort and agony fixed

v. 27 – Deep inside we love & want what's best for relatives, friends

v. 28 – Want to share out of love

v. 29 – Word of God holds the key

v. 30 – The key to crossing over is "to repent"

\* From hell, rich man knew

# Repent

- **Repentance has been misunderstood**
- **Watered down God's greatest gift!!!**
  - "Do you know where you will be when you die?"
  - "Would you like to be in heaven with God?"
  - "God can give you health, wealth, prosperity."
  - "If you accept Jesus in your heart."
- **This is not "repentance" but receiving**
  - "What I can get out of this?" mentality
  - Relative in Japan
- **True that salvation is a gift of eternal life (Rom 6:23)**
  - But you can only hold on to one life (John 12:25)
  - One Big Gift in hands: Your life or His life
- **Salvation comes at a cost of losing your life (Gal 2:20)**
  - Unless you repent, you'll perish (Luke 13:3)

# Repent

- **Gal 5:19-21 (NLT)**

When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. **Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.**

- **So important that Paul mentioned it a numerous times (1Cor 6, Eph 5)**
- **If we continue to live this kind of life...we will not inherit the kingdom of God**
  - **Don't be misled by a prayer..**
  - **If our lives have not changed & we continue to struggle with...**
  - **Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord (Act 3:19)**

# Edification Time

- What spoke to you in this message
- Pray for one another.

