

"Things Missing In Hell"

Text: Luke 16:19-31

Introduction:

- This is very famous passage of scripture used to preach on hell.
- I want to point out that this passage of scripture is not a parable but an actual account.
- Usually a parable does not give names and locations.
- Often when this passage is preached on, what you will find in hell is brought out.
- In our study we want to look at what is missing in hell.

I. No Mercy

- **Luke 16:24** - "And he cried and said, Father Abraham, **have mercy on me**, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."
- The rich man cried out for mercy.
- However, none was given.
- Mercy is defined as not giving someone the punishment they have coming or deserve.
- What is interesting and we want to notice is that all through the Bible, when man cried out to the Lord for mercy, he received it.
- **Illustrations**
 - **Parable of the pharisee and the publican - Luke 18:9-14.**
 - The publican asked for mercy.
 - He cried "God be merciful to me a sinner"
 - He knew that he deserved to die and go to hell for his sins.
 - However, we are told he received mercy - "...this man went down to his house justified."

- **The prodigal son in Luke 15** asked for mercy from his earthly father who is a picture or type of his heavenly Father.
 - He said to his father, "...I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son."
 - He received mercy that he did not deserve.
 - He had gotten in with the wrong crowd and spent all his inheritance on riotous living.
 - Notice his father's response **in Luke 15:22-24**, "But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry."

- **In Luke 17, ten lepers** cried out to Jesus for mercy.
 - **Luke 17:13** - "And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus Master, have mercy on us."
 - **In Luke 17:14**, we see that they received it. - "And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that as they went, they were cleansed."

- **In Mark 10:46**, on the road to Jericho, sat a blind beggar called Bartimaeus.
 - When he heard that Jesus was coming he cried out, "Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me."
 - Jesus answered his cry of mercy and restored his sight.

- **In Luke 23**, we see that the dying thief on the cross asked Jesus for mercy and received it.
 - **Luke 23:42-43**, "And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

- All of these accounts illustrate that when a person cries out to the Lord for mercy that they usually receive it.
- But it is important to note that each of these cries for mercy came before death and not after the person died.
- Remember, my dear friend it is to late to cry out for God's mercy after you are dead.

- There is no second chance according to the word of God - "**And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:**" - **Hebrews 9:27.**
- The rich man in hell cried out for God's mercy and he was not heard.
- It was too late.
- My dear friend if you are unsaved, then you need to cry out to the God through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to have mercy on you to save you from sins before it is too late.
- Before you die lost and in your sins!!!

II. No Saints

- God's people will not be there.
- **Luke 16:23** - "Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom."
- **2 Thess. 1:8-9**, tells us of the fate of those - "that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ".
 - The Bible says - "Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the **presence** of the Lord."
- The child of God in the current age of grace was once afar off from God, no hope until saved.
 - **Ephesians 2:12-13** - "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ."
- But Praise God!
 - We are made nigh by the blood of Christ.
 - Because, we should be with the rich man burning in hell!!
 - Afar off from God and God's people.
 - If you have not then you need to draw nigh to God through the blood of Christ or you will end up like the rich man afar off from God and God's people with no hope.

III. No Water

- **V24** - "And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."
 - The rich man requested that Lazarus dip his finger in water and cool the rich man's tongue.
 - Hell is a place where one's thirst is never quenched.

- We can all testify to the fact that there is nothing like a cool glass of water to quench a thirst.
- Especially, if working out in the hot sun during the summer.
- Imagine never being able to quench your thirst.
- Always being in the state of constant thirst.
- Just picture the taste in your mouth.
- Your lips, tongue, and throat parched like the ground that is so dry has begun to crack.

IV. No Relief

- **V23** - "And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments"
-Notice torments is plural.
 - He was experiencing more than one kind of torment.
 - **V24** - The rich man said, "I am tormented in this flame"
 - **V25** - Abraham said to the rich man concerning his state, "thou are tormented"
 - **V28** -The rich man refers to hell as "this place of torment"
 - In hell there is No Relief from torment.

- Jesus tells us that there exists in hell an actual fire, an actual flame.
 - **Mark 9:43** - "...into the fire that never shall be quenched."
 - Three times Jesus says in **Mark 9:44,46, and 48** about hell, "where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.
 - The fire in hell is never extinguished, can never be put out.
 - The fire in hell is an eternal fire and eternal flame.

- **Matthew 25:41** - Jesus says about hell it is a place of "everlasting fire"
 - Everlasting - no end - no relief.

- **Revelation 14:10-11**, the Apostle John said this about the occupants of hell.
 - **v. 10** - "...he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone..."
 - **v. 11**- "And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever..."
 - **"for ever and ever"**
 - Again, no end, no relief from torment, from suffering

- Just like the life Jesus gives you when you get saved (eternal life) so is the fire in hell eternal.
- My dear friend I tell you that I would rather go through the fires and trials of life now with Jesus which are but for a moment then spend eternity in fires of hell without Jesus, Amen!!!
- The three Jewish boys back in **Daniel 3:19-25**, were in a literal physical furnace of fire.
 - However, we are told the Son of God was with them.
 - When we may go through the fires of this life Jesus may not take us out of the fiery trials but He promises to be with us and gets us through them.
 - **Jesus said**, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee".

V. No Answered Prayer

- The rich man makes two separate requests.
 - **v. 24** - Lazarus come cool his tongue.
 - **vs. 27-28** - Lazarus be sent to witness to his family.
 - Both requests were heard but denied.
- **The first request** was for mercy.
 - As we saw before you will find no mercy in hell.
- **The second request** was for a supernatural witness to be sent to the rich man's family.
 - Abraham told the rich man if his family did not believe the word of God then they would not believe one who came from the dead.
 - If you think about it, Jesus is a supernatural witness from the dead.
 - Yet, people today do not believe the record of Him in the Word of God.
 - And Jesus is the Word.
 - Right now, there is a burden for lost souls in hell.
 - However, it is too late to pray for lost family members in hell.
 - Because your prayer will go unanswered.

VI. No Unbelievers

- Hell makes a believer out of everyone.
- But once in hell it is too late to be saved.
- Only get one window of opportunity to get saved and that is when you are alive on this earth.
- There is no second chance. (**Hebrews 9:27**).
- **vs. 27-28** - Hell made a believer out of the rich man.
- So much so that he wanted his family saved.

- The Bible tells us that an individual is "saved by grace through faith"
 - Something cannot be of faith if you can actually physically see and touch it.
 - **Faith the Bible says**, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." **Hebrews 11:1**
 - **Jesus said**, "blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed".
 - You must believe on Christ **now** before it is too late!

- What a wake up call someday to die and wake up in hell.
 - To find out that you have been lied to by the people you trusted, by your religion
 - To find out that what the Bible said is true.
 - **"Let God be true and every man a liar"**

VII. No Comfort

- **v 25** - "But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented."
- Our verse shows us all the comfort an unsaved person will get is while he is alive.
- In hell there will only be torment and no comfort.

- **vs 20-21** - "And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores."
 - We see that Lazarus had it rough while he was alive but when he died, because he was saved, he was eternally comforted.
 - Lazarus had lost the torment of life on earth and gained the eternal state of comfort in Abraham's bosom.
 - As a Christians, we are told if going to live godly for Christ Jesus, then you are going to suffer persecution.
 - I tell you that I would rather suffer the persecution and the torment this world has to offer then the eternal torment at the hands of God.

- **In Hebrews 11:24-26**, we see the testimony of Moses.
 - "By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward."
 - Lazarus suffered affliction but the rich man choose the pleasures of sin for a season.
 - And that season was short compare to eternity. Amen!!!
- Paul, the Apostle reminds us whatever we suffer down here on earth is nothing compare to the glory that we are going to receive in heaven.
 - **2 Cor. 4:17** - "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;"
- There is no comfort in hell.
- Finally, let me say

VIII. No Escape

- There is no escape from hell, no way out.
- **-v26** - " And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence."
- There is finally separation from the Saviour, the Saints, and the Scriptures.
- Great Gulf - Cannot be span when dead.
- **The hymn, At Calvary says**, "Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary"
- My dear friend either you trust Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour for the forgiveness of your sins, **now** while you are alive and span that great gulf.
 - Or someday wake up in hell and it will be to late to span that great gulf.
- Maybe you are thinking that, "I am not bad enough to go to hell, the lake of fire".
- **Revelation 21:8** - tells us about the occupants of the lake of fire - " But the fearful, and **unbelieving**, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

- My dear friend you might not be fearful, or the abominable, or a murderer, or a whoremonger, or a sorcerer, or an idolater, or a liar.
 - But if you have never believed from your heart that Christ died for your sins, was buried and arose the third day to save from going to hell.
 - If you are trusting in anything else **except the shed blood of Jesus Christ** to save you.
 - Then according to the word of God you are an unbeliever and will end up in the lake of fire someday to burn for all of eternity, for ever and ever.
 - My dear friend before it is too late won't call upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to save ^{you} you.
 - And span that great gulf that exists between your sins and God.
 - The Bible says "whosoever calleth upon the name of the Lord shall be saved"
 - Won't you be saved today?

Conclusion:

Things missing in hell:

- NO MERCY
- NO SAINTS
- NO WATER
- NO RELIEF
- NO ANSWERED PRAYER
- NO UNBELIEVERS
- NO COMFORT
- NO ESCAPE

- Christian won't you be a faithful witness for the Lord and do as **Jude 22-23** says to do - " And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."