
By Brent Paschall – brent@brentnrachel.com

I. Introduction
II. Key Thought
III. Text
   a. V. 19 – The Rich Man
      i. Extreme Luxury
         1. Linen was worth more than its weight in gold
         2. Purple would have been the attire of kings and princes
            a. Dyed with certain sea mollusks
         3. This was his everyday attire
      ii. Sumptuous feast
         1. The noble Romans and emperors were famous for this kind of feasting
            a. Bringing delicacies from all over the Roman empire to their table
            b. Having their food turned into artwork by skilled chefs before they ate it
            c. Dedicating dozens or more of servants spending hours each day to prepare just one meal
         2. Inviting choice guests among the most rich and influential to impress and be impressed at these meals
   b. V. 20-21 – Lazarus
      i. Not a greater contrast
      ii. A picture of
         1. Complete misery
            a. Full of sores – some assume leprosy, but not necessarily
         2. Complete helplessness
            a. Unable to move himself – had to be laid wherever he happened to be
            b. Unable to prevent the dogs from licking his wounds
         3. One bright spot
            a. He was at the gate of one who could have supplied his every need and made whatever was left of life to him as comfortable as it could possibly be
            b. But that is not what happened
               i. He may have gotten crumbs at the gate, which may have kept him alive a little longer
               ii. But he never got any other assistance
         4. One other bright spot
            a. Jesus knew his name!
b. As an ancient preacher from centuries ago said, “It is as if our Lord is reading from his Book of Life and finds Lazarus’ name there” and tells this story.
c. The rich man, however, is unnamed. How significant that is.
d. It is not surprising, since Jesus knew his name, what we are told next

iii. V. 22 – Two funerals
1. We are not told what kind of funeral Lazarus received upon his death, but we can imagine
   a. The least possible respects for the body one who perish at the utter bottom of the scale of human existence
   b. And yet, what a testimony to Lazarus – His spirit was carried by the angel’s to Abraham’s bosom
      i. Abraham’s bosom –
         1. A Jewish term for the blessed state of those who die faithful while they wait for the Messiah
         2. Reflects a picture of the faithful dead reclining at a great feast (Mat. 8:11-12; Luke 13:28-30)
         3. Abraham’s bosom represented the favored position right next to the most notable guest – like John had at the last supper (John 13:23-25)
         4. Jesus referred to it on the cross as Paradise (Lk. 23:43)

2. We are not told what kind of funeral the rich man received upon his death, but we can imagine
   a. Attended by thousands
   b. The most notable people in the nation or the world present and perhaps even speaking to give tribute to a man who wielded such power and influence in his life
   c. Lavish expense to make the funeral a tribute to the type of life he lived
   d. A final resting place marked with a monuments meant to last for millennia so that his name and notable achievements would not be forgotten
   e. But then..

iv. Torments – v. 23-24
1. He wakes up in torments
   a. Not hell, but Hades – the realm of the dead
   b. Not comfort, but torment
i. Torment – v. 23 – touchstone, rack, torment/torture
ii. Agony

c. Flame
i. Much like the lake of fire and brimstone which is the second death (Rev. 20:14-15)
ii. Where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched (Mark 9:44-48)
iii. Where they are tormented day and night, forever and ever (Rev. 20:10)

v. The Great Reversal – v. 25
1. His sin
   a. Not being rich
      i. Abraham
      ii. Job
   b. Not accused of any specific sin
      i. Not ill-gotten gain
      ii. Not conspicuous consumption
      iii. Just you had your good things
   c. What went wrong?
      i. He did not use his blessing on earth to secure blessings in heaven
      ii. Luke 16: 9 – make friends of yourself by unrighteous mammon -> eternal habitations
      iii. Lay up for yourself treasure in heaven – Mat. 6:19-21
      iv. 1 Tim. 6:18-19
      v. He had opportunity – Lazarus was witness to that
      vi. He failed the test that Job passed - Job 31:16-23
      vii. He was inhuman and unfeeling and selfish
      viii. This night your soul will be required of you, then whose will these things be

2. The irony
   a. He delighted in comfort and the company of the rich and famous
      i. He had it then, now he cannot have it
      ii. Lazarus lacked it then, now he had it
      iii. If the rich man had seen to it that Lazarus had enjoyed some comforts, then perhaps they both could have enjoyed it
   b. Joel Olsteen – You Best Life Now
      i. I don’t want my best life now
ii. I want my best life in Paradise

iii. Too many people are trying for the good life in this world and getting it at the expense of the life to come (Luke 6:20-26)

iv. It doesn’t take much
   1. Just to act with unfeeling toward the Lazarus’ that are all around us
   2. May keep us out of the banquet feast of heaven

v. Jesus said (Matt. 25:40,45-46)
   1. Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren you did it for me
   2. Inasmuch as you did not do it for one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.
   3. These will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

vi. It is more blessed to give than to receive

vi. The Life Beyond – v. 26
   1. An unbridgeable divide
      a. No purgatory
      b. No second chances after death
   2. A conscience existence
      a. Not annihilation as some even in the Lords church teach
      b. Not unconsciousness until the final resurrection as the Jehovah’s Witnesses teach
         i. God is not the God of the dead, but of the living
         ii. He is not the God of the unconscious either
   3. Not his main point, but Jesus knows what he is talking about!!
      a. Man’s speculations don’t count for anything next to Jesus plain description

vii. The Final Appeal – v. 27-31
   1. Has he begun to think of others?
      a. Wanting to warn his brothers
   2. Or just seeking to justify himself
      a. If someone had warned me, I would have done things so much differently!
   3. Abraham said, they have Moses and the prophets
      a. That’s all they need
   4. Even if one came to the m from theh dead
      a. Proven by another Lazarus
Raised from the dead

John 12:9-11 - Their only thought was to plot to kill him so that he would not be a cause of faith in Jesus

Now another has risen from the dead

Jesus Himself

Moses was sufficient to condemn the wicked

Jesus was necessary to redeem the wicked

If we will not listen to Him

What hope do we have

If we listen and do not do the things which He says

We are foolish

Our whole life will one day come down in ruins

We will see others partaking of the blessings of fellowship with Jesus Christ

And ourselves cast out

Conclusion

Does Jesus know your name?

Will He speak for you in the final judgement on the last day and welcome you into everlasting joy?

Or will he say depart from me, I never knew you?

Invitation