

19th Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map
Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Luke 16:19-31
October 4, 2015

The Rich Man and Lazarus - Now you know the rest of the story.

- ❖ Paul Harvey - 30+ years telling *The rest of the story*.
 - ◆ Key: revealing and surprising real events
- The Rich Man and Lazarus - Now you know the rest of the story.**
- ❖ The Rich Man and Lazarus - likely real people, not parable
 - ◆ Not called a parable, taught to disciples, no single point of comparison
 - ◆ Pulling back the curtain - revealing and surprising
- ❖ The surprising realities of heaven and hell.
 - ◆ Many religions speak of afterlife, many of hell and of a “heaven”
 - ◆ The real Hell - place of relentless torment - fire - worm eating *Isa. 66:24*
 - Surrounded by suffering - yet so alone
 - Existence where all *good* is removed. Experienced existence: *death*
 - ◆ Heaven - delivered by God’s angels - *bosom of Abraham*
 - Comforted, fullness of life - all good in communion with God
 - Feasting, content, not living for self-satisfaction, but for God
 - ◆ Real - one or the other - can’t cross over or visit, eternal residence
- ❖ The surprising reality that: *The good life isn’t all that counts*.
 - ◆ Jesus, *You can’t serve both God and Money*. Rich Pharisees scoffed!
 - They saw prosperity as proof of God’s approval of you.
 - Missed: When *good life* is defined by *goods*, not God - it’s a lie!
 - ◆ Key: ...*you in your lifetime received your good things...* v. 25
 - His good = pleasant, feeling good, satisfied, experience good stuff
 - Missed: **God is good**. Without him there is **no** *quality of life*.
 - Think: *Life without God is good*, face eternity w/o the Living God

- ◆ Who of us would choose Lazarus’ life?
 - On the surface: it looks like all abandoned him, including God.
 - His death reveals otherwise. The surprising *rest of the story*.
 - Lazarus’ quality of life: He trusted Yahweh and his Word. Yahweh was his hope and peace, relying on his mercy and loving kindness.
 - ◆ Join Jeremiah in smoldering rubble: ²² *Because of the LORD’s faithful love we do not perish, for His mercies never end.* ²³ *They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness!* Lam. 3 HCSB
 - Heaven - the home of all who know *Quality of Life* is in God **alone**
 - ◆ Believers know there is no good, no life, without the Living God.
- ❖ The surprising reality: you can’t scare people out of hell and into heaven.
 - ◆ Rich man, in unbelief, thinks people can decide to avoid hell
 - Get his brothers’ attention! Raise Lazarus to testify to hell’s horrors.
 - He thinks: they will only believe *someone from the other side*.
 - He thinks: they can be scared out of hell, into heaven.
 - Missing: Unbelievers are dead, blind, and hostile. (He still is.)
 - Unbelievers can’t get it and open the door to Jesus.
 - ◆ Surprising power of God’s Word
 - It alone is the Light that penetrates sin’s blindness.
 - The gospel is the power of God to give birth to new life in hearts.
 - Only God’s good news changes mindset: God alone is good.

The Rich Man and Lazarus - Now you know the rest of the story.

Now that you know the surprising rest of the story, what will you do with it?

- ◆ Grow as a resident of heaven - daily rejoicing: Life is good with Jesus.
- ◆ Live looking beyond the grave - longing to come home to Jesus.
- ◆ See all headed to join the Rich Man. Look for ways to tell them *the rest of the story*. Not scaring them out of hell. But bring to Jesus.