The Illumination of Death

Luke 16:19-31

13% of Jesus' teaching was about judgement and hell.

Jesus loves us too much not to tell us the truth!

- What Lazarus learned:
  1. God cares for His children; His promises are true.

2. God is just.

"…now he is comforted there."

(v25)

3. There is a reward beyond compare waiting for His faithful children to receive.

- What the rich man learned:
  1. His priorities in life were misplaced.

He had it all on earth.

It wasn’t worth anything in eternity.

Decisions determine destiny.

"Better to go to heaven alone than to hell with the herd."
—Charles Spurgeon

2. Hell is real.

The rich man immediately discovered that hell is a place of torment.

In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. **(v23)**

<u>Names of hell in the Bible</u>:

Hades → the temporary place of the dead (11x in NT. 4x by Jesus)

Sheol → the place of the dead (65x in OT)

Gehenna → Jerusalem's garbage dump, a place of refuse, rotting and burning things (11x by Jesus)

Skotos **→ a place of utter darkness, (Jesus associates this place with hell 3x in Matthew)**

"But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Matthew 8:12

Prison → Peter and John both use this term to describe the place of the dead

3. At death one's fate is fixed.

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

(v 26)

There is no mercy in hell.

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.' (v24)

4. Hell is a place of regret; our memories live on.

"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.'" (v25)

5. It's too late to rewrite your story there.

"He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' " (v31)

Those who have hardened their hearts beyond believing even a miracle, may have been touched by your life lived for the Lord.

TODAY, it’s not too late for you to chart a new legacy for your life.

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

—2 Corinthians 6:2

But what does (the Scripture) say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim. —Romans 10:8