

5 Minutes After Death

REFERENCE SCRIPTURE: Luke 16:19-31

1. INTRODUCTION

- a. Man is the only creature who knows that he is going to die, and he is trying desperately to forget it.
- b. Most people do not want to talk about death.
 - i. Reason and experience tell us that we are going to die.
 - ii. If we are not prepared to die, then we are not prepared to live.
 - iii. No one is ever ready for life until he is no longer afraid of death
- c. Human beings are interested in the origin of the species, but we ought to be more interested in the destination of the species.
 - i. From whence we've come is settled; where we are going is not yet settled.
- d. There was a time when you were not, but there will never be a time when you will not be.
 - i. Your soul will continue to exist somewhere, either in Heaven or in Hell.
- e. Jesus is the master teacher, and He told a story that deals with the three great issues we all must face: life, death and eternity.
 - i. Luke 16:19-31
 - 1. Some believe this story is a parable, but the Lord Jesus did not call it a parable.
 - a. Jesus never spoke a parable in which He mentioned someone's name.
 - i. He mentions Lazarus by name in this passage, and He deals with Lazarus as an actual individual.
 - 2. Regardless, this story is a truth spoken by the greatest teacher who ever lived, our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - ii. This is a story of contrasts.
 - 1. Jesus contrasts two men.
 - a. He contrasts their lives.
 - b. He contrasts their deaths.
 - c. He contrasts their destinies.

2. A CONTRAST IN LIFE (Luke 16:19-21)

- a. These two men were very different.
 - i. One was a rich man; one was a poor man.
 - ii. One had more materially than his heart could wish; the other did not have enough to even subsist.
- b. Life is full of inequities.
 - i. Congenital inequities
 - 1. We are born with inequities.
 - a. Some are born with strong bodies, while others are born with frail bodies.
 - b. Some are born to have beauty, while others are not.
 - c. Some are born with great intellects, while others are not.
 - 2. We are all equal before the law, but we are each born with different gifts and abilities.
 - a. The rich man in Luke 16, perhaps, had a fine mind that enabled him to make his money.
 - ii. Material inequities
 - 1. There are the “have’s” and the “have not’s.”
 - 2. Some are born into great wealth; others are not.
 - 3. Some are born into a place, a free country, where they can enjoy nicer material possessions.
 - 4. The rich man in Luke 16 fared sumptuously each day while another man, just outside his gate, did not.
 - a. Riches are not wrong in themselves.
 - b. Our Lord teaches that we’re to have mercy upon the poor and to help get them out of their poverty.
 - i. Joseph of Arimathea was a rich man.
 - ii. Abraham was rich.
 - iii. King David was rich.
 - c. Psalm 62:10
 - iii. Social inequities
 - 1. Doubtless, the rich man was praised and lauded; everyone was likely interested to know about his lifestyle.
 - 2. Few people were interested in the beggar.
 - a. Never speak despairingly about the poor.

- b. We need to say, “But for the grace of God, there go I.”

3. A CONTRAST IN DEATH (Luke 16:22)

- a. Both the rich and the poor die.
 - i. No matter how we try to escape death, we will die.
 - ii. The only thing that may keep you from dying is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.
- b. There was a difference when the rich man died than when the beggar died.
 - i. The beggar likely died without ceremony.
 - ii. The rich man likely had access to the best medical treatment of the day, but he died also.
 - 1. 1 Samuel 20:3
 - iii. When the beggar died, the Bible does not say that he was buried; it says the rich man was buried.
 - 1. The beggars of that day, when they died, were often discarded on a garbage heap without a burial.
 - iv. The Bible states that the rich man was buried.
 - 1. People probably eulogized the rich man and praised him as a good man.
 - a. Romans 3:10
 - 2. All of their words would not change his destiny.
 - 3. All of the finery at his funeral would not change his destiny.

4. A CONTRAST IN ETERNITY (Luke 16:22-29)

- a. In this passage, the Lord Jesus pulls back the curtain and gives us a glimpse to the other side.
 - i. The only thing we really know about life after death is what the Bible reveals and what Jesus says.
 - 1. One thing we know is that death is not extinction.
 - a. There is life after death.
 - i. We know this because Jesus teaches it.
 - b. Your soul will be in existence somewhere.
- b. The glories of Heaven.
 - i. Luke 16:22

- ii. The beggar died and was carried by the angels to “Abraham’s bosom.”
 - 1. When he died, an angel convoy came and took him to a place called “Abraham’s bosom.”
 - 2. Abraham was the “Father of the Faithful,” and to be with Abraham would be a place of incredible honor.
 - a. When the people of that day held a banquet, they would not sit around a table but would recline; and the best place where one would recline would be where your head would be near the chest, or bosom, of the host
 - 3. This man, who had been feeding on crumbs, is now at a banquet, sitting in the highest place of honor.
- iii. Jesus is showing us here the radical change that took place for this man as he was carried by the angels to Heaven.
 - 1. When we invite others to receive Jesus as Lord, we are not inviting them to a funeral but to a feast.
- iv. “Abraham’s bosom” is referring to Heaven.
- v. Heaven is all that the all-beneficent loving heart of God would desire for you, all that the omniscient mind of God could design for you, and all that the omnipotent hand of God could prepare for you.
 - 1. Heaven will be just right.
 - 2. We will have no longing or desire that Heaven will not fulfill more than we can imagine.
- c. The agonies of Hell.
 - i. The devil is behind the teaching that there is no Hell.
 - 1. The devil knows that if people do not understand the teaching of Hell, then they’ll not prepare to go to Heaven and they won’t give their hearts to Jesus.
 - ii. Many scoff at the idea of Hell, but the Bible teaches that there is a Hell.
 - 1. 1 Peter 1:25
 - 2. The scoffers do not put out the fires of Hell.
 - a. Men laughed at Noah when he spoke of the flood.
 - i. Genesis 7:22

- b. Men scoffed at Lot when he warned that God was going to destroy Sodom with fire and brimstone.
 - i. Genesis 19:24-25
 - c. Men scoffed at Daniel when he said that the kingdom was going to be overthrown.
 - i. Daniel 5:30
 - 3. We should never mock the Word of God.
 - a. Listen to the Word of God.
 - iii. Why we believe in Hell:
 - 1. Jesus teaches it.
 - a. If we ever ridicule a preacher for being a Hell-fire preacher, then we are ridiculing the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - b. There are at least 162 texts in the New Testament that speak of Hell and the judgment of the lost.
 - i. Over 70 of these texts are issued by Jesus Himself.
 - c. Matthew 5:29-30
 - i. Jesus is saying that it would be better to be a maimed saint than a healthy sinner on his way to Hell
 - ii. There is nothing more important than being saved.
 - 2. The death of Jesus demonstrates it.
 - a. If there is no Hell from which we need to be saved, then why did Jesus die?
 - b. If there is no Hell, then Calvary is the blunder of the ages.
 - c. The agony and utter midnight of Calvary proves there is a Hell.
 - 3. The justice of God demands it.
 - a. There is a judgment to face.
 - b. There must be a time when things are made right, when equity does come.
 - c. Hell is a fact; a disbelief in Hell does not change the fact of it.
 - d. The Lord Jesus tells us what Hell will be like:

- i. Hell is a place of sensual misery.
 - 1. One will feel in Hell.
 - a. In Luke 16:23-25, the word “torment” is mentioned three times.
 - b. Hell is a place of torment.
 - 2. The Lord Jesus used the word “fire” to describe Hell.
 - a. Matthew 25:41
 - i. Whether Jesus is speaking literally or metaphorically of something that is even worse than the literal thing, it makes no difference.
 - ii. There is fire in Hell.
- ii. Hell is a place of emotional misery.
 - 1. Luke 16:25
 - 2. If you go to Hell, you will take your memory with you.
 - a. Memory will sting like a hornet in Hell.
 - i. You will remember the church services you attended and the sermons you heard.
 - ii. You will remember the prayers of your loved ones and every opportunity you had to be saved but said no to Jesus.
- iii. Hell is a place of eternal misery.
 - 1. Luke 16:26
 - a. There is a great gulf fixed, a chasm, between the righteous and the unrighteous.
 - i. In this life, that chasm can be spanned thanks to the cross of Calvary.
 - ii. But in eternity, there are no second chances.
 - iii. Hebrews 9:27
- iv. Hell is a place of spiritual misery.
 - 1. Luke 16:27-29
 - a. The rich man in Hell begs Abraham to send someone to witness to his family so that they would not go to this place of torment.
 - b. He is concerned for his loved ones, but it was too late for him to warn them.

- i. Many Christians wait until it is too late to be concerned about our loved ones.

5. CONCLUSION

- a. There is a Hell.
 - i. Five minutes after you die, you will be in Hell for eternity if you die without receiving the Lord Jesus as your Savior in this life.
- b. In order to go to Hell, you will have to struggle and work to get there.
 - i. It takes more difficulty to go to Hell than to go to Heaven.
 - ii. You will have to climb over some things to get to Hell:
 - 1. Church services you attended.
 - a. The music and the prayers and the teaching from God's Word.
 - 2. Your own conscience that is telling you to give your heart to Jesus.
 - 3. The conviction of the Holy Spirit.
 - 4. The blood-stained cross of Jesus upon Mount Calvary.
 - 5. The prayers of people who have prayed for you.
 - 6. Your better judgment.
- c. Once someone gets to Hell, they will never get out.
- d. Where will your spirit be five minutes after you die?
- e. You do not have to go to Hell - you can be saved today.
 - i. God loves you.
 - ii. Jesus died for you.
 - iii. Revelation 22:17
- f. If today, in repentance and faith, you give your heart to the Lord Jesus, He will save you and will keep you saved for all eternity.
- g. Please do not gamble with your destiny.
- h. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- i. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i. Romans 3:23
 - ii. Romans 10:9-10
 - iii. Romans 10:13
 - iv. Acts 16:31
 - v. John 3:16