

Title: ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE CHASM, LUKE 16:19-31
(Chatham, NJ; 09/29/13, AM) [Pc – Narrative Analysis]

Theme: The story of poor man Lazarus reminds us to be aware of and kind to the poor.

Purpose: To make sure we demonstrate compassion for the less fortunate so that we might share in the comfort of eternal life.

Introduction:

1. This is an intriguing tale that may have been adapted among the rabbis from Egyptian culture.
2. We should not necessarily assume that we go to our reward or destruction immediately after death.
3. We should assume this teaches us that the unrighteous and cold-hearted person will not share in the comfort of eternal life.
4. The story portrays some very stark contrasts: Lazarus' condition vs. rich man's luxury, Lazarus' comfort after death vs. rich man's suffering, some won't believe even if someone were to rise from the dead.

I. Wealth A Symptom of a Deeper Problem

- A. What makes your life meaningful?
 1. Danger of wealth: worldly power, comfort and ease
 2. Ignorance of others' needs
 3. The poor man here has a name: Lazarus (note his condition)
 4. He is not just one of a nameless category
 5. Wealth insulates us from individuals
 6. We find meaning only in our pleasures (note the condition of the rich man)
- B. God cares for those who have less, Psalm 146:7
 1. John tells us that by God's love we are to care for others not only in word but also by our actions, 1 John 3:16-18
 2. Godliness with contentment is great gain (1 Tim. 6:6-7)
 3. Does this make your life meaningful?
 4. In 6:11 he tells us the things we need to cross the chasm from eternal punishment to eternal comfort and joy

II. What Happens After Death?

- A. Do we think about that?
 1. A Day of Judgment will come – John 5:28-29 (just because it isn't popular doesn't mean it isn't going to happen)
 2. Some day it will be too late
 3. God rewards everyone according to what they have done, Romans 2:6-11
 4. Well-doing versus self-seeking
 5. Obeying the truth versus obeying unrighteousness
 6. Glory, honor, and peace result from the one
 7. Tribulation and distress result from the other
 8. The poor man is comforted; the rich man punished
- B. Make the good confession, 1 Tim. 6:12
 1. Again, Paul tells us how to make sure we are on the right side of the chasm
 2. Make the good confession: Jesus is Lord
 3. Take hold of eternal life; fight the good fight, 12
 4. Keep the commandments until Jesus comes back, 14
 5. Flee from all the other things, 11

III. Who Rules Your Life?

A. Wealth, fame, and notoriety

1. These things are uncertain and fleeting, 1 Tim. 6:17
2. Yet we trust in them in subtle ways
3. Trust instead on God
4. He is the source of all those good things
5. A classic case of worshipping the creature rather than the creator, Rom 1:25

B. What do you need to believe?

1. Moses and the prophets: sufficient for him and his brothers
2. Abraham negates a false premise: if the brothers were to see a resurrection, they'll believe
3. He says that still won't turn some hearts around
4. A veiled prediction that many Jews won't believe Jesus?
5. Do you need some personal sign before you'll believe?

Conclusion:

1. Think about how you look at what you have: does it rule your life?
2. Think about what happens after you die: are you ready to face judgment?
3. Stinginess with wealth is not the only thing that will keep you from being on the right side of the chasm.
4. Wealth is merely a partner of evil desires.
5. Make sure you not only use your resources for the good of others, but also make sure you are obedient to the Gospel and all the commands of Christ.