

THEY HAVE MOSES AND THE PROPHETS 12-24-17

Luke 16:19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

Luke 16:20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

Luke 16:21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

Luke 16:22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

Luke 16:23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Luke 16:24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

Luke 16:25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

Luke 16:26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

Luke 16:27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

Luke 16:28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

Luke 16:29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

Luke 16:30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

Luke 16:31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

This is Christmas Eve. Many would expect me to preach a nice sweet Christmas message on this occasion. However, this week the Lord impressed upon my heart this statement that Abraham said to the rich man who was in hell. The Rich man had a concern for his 5 brothers who apparently were just as wicked as he was and he was sure they were headed to this same place. So he petitions the Lord through Abraham that Lazarus would be sent back from the dead to testify to them. Then Abraham tells this rich man, they have Moses and the Prophets preached every Sabbath day in the synagogues, let them hear them.

Then the rich man said, they won't hear them. Then Abraham says, if they will not hear Moses and the prophets, they will not be convinced even if God performed a miracle and let Lazarus rise from the dead and go back and testify to them.

Now this is the message.

There are many people that want more than the Word of God to convince them, and lead them to repentance. They are looking for some miracle or some extra special treatment to be convinced to live for the Lord.

Here is the message to such people who are looking for these things.

If the written Word of God is not enough to convince you of your need to repent and get right with God, and you are expecting more, then I say to you, there will be nothing else given to you.

Consider The Message For Us In This Statement:

Luke 16:29: ***They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.***

I. THIS IS A MESSAGE TO THOSE WHO ARE LOOKING FOR MORE THAN THE BIBLE TO CONVINCe THEM TO GET RIGHT WITH GOD.

The message is simple. God is not going to send you anything else. Moses and the Prophets, represent the Bible, the Word of God.

We have been very busy the last month preparing a special musical for New Years Eve. There is nothing wrong with occasionally doing something extra like this. However, we need to realize that people need to hear the Word of God and this is the most important thing.

When Jesus came down to planet earth He did a lot of miracles, but what separated the men from the boys spiritually was when He preached. Jesus wanted people to know the miracles were there to draw people to the message. The message was not the miracles.

People did not have a problem with Him feeding the multitudes.
People did not have a problem with Him healing and sick.
People did not have a problem with Him raising the dead.

They had a problem with what He taught.

When Jesus fed the multitudes, the people were so impressed they were going to take Him by force and make Him King!

John 6:14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

John 6:15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

Jesus knew they were only doing this because He fed them, not because they believed Him. So He decided to teach them some hard truths to expose their lack of true faith.

John 6:59 These things said he in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum.

John 6:60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?

John 6:61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?

John 6:62 What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

John 6:64 But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.

John 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

John 6:66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

When Jesus preached and taught the people the Word of God, this caused an offence and many of the crowd went back, and left Him. They went from wanting to make Him a King by force to turning their back on Him.

And who was left of that great multitude of people?

Only the Apostles, the ones our Lord chose.

John 6:67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

John 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? **thou hast the words of eternal life.**

John 6:69 And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

John 6:70 Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?

Peter said it plainly, we are sure that you have the Words of eternal life.

The thousands, came for the other things.

The Peter and the apostles came because of our Lord's Word and teaching.

The great problem we have in the day that we live is that we have people that are looking for other things besides the Word of God.

I have had many complain to me, that they see people playing games, and talking during the service, not paying attention to what is being preached and taught from the Word of God.

This is a message or warning to you.

If you will not hear from the Word of God you someday are going to find yourself in trouble,

Two possible things will happen:

This Rich man wound up in hell, but I have seen many a Christian's life wind up ship wrecked because they did not heed the Word of God.

THEY HAVE MOSES AND THE PROPHETS. LET THEM HEAR THEM.

YOU HAVE NOT ONLY MOSES AND THE PROPHETS, YOU ALSO HAVE THE WRITINGS OF THE APOSTLES, AND THE RECORDED WORDS OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. IF YOU WILL NOT HEAR THESE THERE IS NO RECOURSE FOR YOU!

II. THIS IS A MESSAGE TO THOSE WHO FIND THE WORD OF GOD BORING AND IT NOT WORTH THEIR TIME TO GIVE ATTENDANCE TO HEARING THE BIBLE PREACHED.

There are a lot of people who just do not find it worth their time to come to Church to hear the Word of God. It does not interest them at all.

This rich man knew that's the way he was, and he knew that was the way his brothers were. So his thinking was if Lazarus went back and gave testimony of the fact that their brother was in hell they would hear him and repent.

NO NO NO. If they would not listen to the Word of God preached in the house of God they would not be convinced by a miracle.

The only thing that saves us is faith in the Word of God.
The only thing that we can do to please God is to believe and obey His Word.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

III. THIS IS A MESSAGE TO THOSE WHO THINK THEY WILL HAVE AN EXCUSE IN THE DAY OF JUDGMENT. There is no excuse.

The rich man in hell said send Lazarus, to my brothers, then they will repent.

Abraham says, they have Moses and the Prophets, let them hear them.

Luke 16:29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

Luke 16:30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

Luke 16:31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

How did the rich man know that his brothers would not listen to the Bible?

He knew it because he grew up with them. Listen carefully, there is danger that those who grow up hearing the word of God often find it dry and boring. This is the danger of lukewarm christianity. We need to be careful that we do not let our children become gospel hardened.

The proverbs say:

Proverbs 27:7 The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

Here you had a Rich man and he probably had 5 rich brothers. They had everything in this world and the Word of God lost its sweetness to them. They were always looking for some new thing. So now the oldest brother winds up in hell and has a concern for his 5 younger brothers.

In hell he prays to send the poor beggar Lazarus back from the dead to tell them that heaven is real, hell is real, and they need to repent and get right before they wind up there.

They need to wake up. So he comes up with a plan. If only God would send back Lazarus from the dead to tell them. They need a messenger. They need someone to tell them that eternity is real.

The Lord through Abraham tells him that they have the Bible. Let them hear the Bible. This rich man scoffs at the Bible. IN HELL HE SCOFFS. What, they won't listen to that dry boring book. They heard that already. They need a new fresh message. They need a miracle, they need

something exciting. New music, new programs, bring something new and exciting into the church. Maybe some strobe lights, maybe some entertainment, maybe this or that will do it. The Lord says, you have everything you need, you have the Bible. You say, they won't listen to the Bible! If people will not listen to the Bible it doesn't matter what else you do!

There will be no excuse in the day of judgment for not listening to the Word of God. There is a great danger for those who have children and raise those children in the church. The worst sinners are those who become gospel hardened to the Word of God. They hear it but they reject it. These become the worse terrors.

This is a message of warning. Don't think that God is going to give you anything more than what you already have. You have Moses and the Prophets, you have the Word of God.

Woe is it when you no longer weep as you read the story Moses wrote about Joseph and his brothers, a beautiful picture of the gospel and how it is that Jesus was sold for envy also.

Woe it is when you read about the hardness of the hearts of the people Israel when they murmured in the wilderness, and no longer shake your head in amazement at their stupidity.

Woe to you when you read these words, Absalom Absalom my son Absalom, as he wept over the fact that his own son died and went to hell because of his sin with Bathsheba..

Woe to you when you no longer read in awe the marvelous workings of God in the book of Esther, the sweet love story of the book of Ruth, and infinite wisdom of Proverbs and Psalms.

WOE TO YOU when you can no longer weep as you read about the crucifixion and rejoice at the resurrection story and marvel at the stupid plot of the Pharisees to cover up the fact that our blessed Saviour was resurrected.

How is it you say with the rich man in hell, they will not hear Moses and the prophets, they need something more.

NOTHING MORE WILL BE GIVEN YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN.. IF YOU WILL NOT HEAR THE BIBLE THERE IS NO HOPE FOR YOU!

Be careful, be careful, be careful!

Ken Knapp told me a story he read in a book called "The Apostle Of Certainty"

R.A. Torrey and his son went to a church service, his son found the preacher to be particularly boring, not an interesting speaker at all..

After the service, R.A. Torrey went up to the pastor and conveyed to him how much he was appreciative of the message.

His son upon leaving the church asked his father how he could thank the preacher for such a dry message. He became critical of the sermon. it was dry and boring.

R.A. Torrey rebuked his son and said, he was preaching the Word of God, how can you ever find that boring?

Why did the Rich man in hell think that his brothers would not hear the word of God? Maybe it was because he knew how they grew up making light of it.

Many a parent has become an Apostle of Damnation to their children by their attitude towards the Word of God. Also they allow their children to have a bad attitude towards the things of God. We teach that attendance to church is not a priority, other things are more important. What we do is inoculate them to the Word of God. They become gospel hardened.

R.A. Torrey's rebuke to his son must of have stuck with him because it was recorded in his Biography.

Here is the conclusion of the matter:

This rich man was worried about the spiritual welfare and future of his family, but the family's attitude concerning the Word of God was the ultimate deciding factor. Nothing was going to change with anything else.

If a person will not hear Moses and the Prophets, there is no hope for them.

Your eternal soul and the souls of your loved ones hangs in the balance over your attitude towards this precious book that is being preached this morning.

Soon we will be entering a New Year. Let me challenge you to renew your desire to read and hear from this blessed book. Today we have more than Moses and the prophets. We have the New Testament also, far greater revelation.

Listen to these sobering words written in the book of Hebrews:

Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

Hebrews 2:2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;

Hebrews 2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;