

The Main Thing

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Luke 16:19-31.

B. Man must love God and use money instead of loving money and using God.

II. The rich man was characterized by the externals only and lived a hollow life.

III. The poor man is the only person in Jesus' parables who is given a name.

A. His name means, "God is my helper," which indicates his piety.

B. He lived a challenging life as a poor man.

IV. Both men died, but Lazarus ended up in Abraham's bosom while the rich man ended up in Hades.

A. The rich man was not in hell because he was rich.

B. The Lord used metaphors in this story such as Abraham's bosom, the chasm, the flames, etc. We must not over-literalize them.

C. The symbols in the parable convey a deeper reality.

1. The flames signify a consuming experience such as a memory.

2. The water is a symbol of relief or desire.

D. This result is not what God wants for man—it is the result of human choice.

V. The dead man is tormented that he cannot help the living person.

A. God denies the request because it would not work.

B. Human beings are always crying for more proof, but the proofs themselves will not convince a person.

C. The Word of God is the only instrument for convincing people.

D. Our future is determined by the present.

E. It makes man whole to walk in obedience to God.

Application questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who uses this passage to argue that it is wrong to be rich?

2. Why will not more miracles alone convince people of Jesus' identity and their need for salvation? Explain.

3. What role is the Word of God supposed to take in evangelism in light of this passage? Explain.
